

Environmental Focus Group Workshop

June 24, 2021

Engagement Summary

BRAMPTON PLAN



Table of Contents

1	Introduction	3
1.1	Purpose of Public Workshop	3
1.1.1	Purpose	3
1.2	Meeting Overview	4
1.2.1	Meeting Details (Venue, # of Attendees, Meeting Participants)	4
1.3	Outreach	4
2	Feedback	5
2.1	Discussion Questions	5
2.2	Comments Received	6
3	Key Messages Heard	7
3.1	Open Spaces and the Environment (General)	7
3.1.1	Naturalization	7
3.1.2	Energy	7
3.1.3	Other	7
3.2	Natural Heritage System	8
3.2.1	NHS Protection and Education	8
3.2.2	Access and Equity	8
3.2.3	Tree Canopy	8
3.3	Climate Action	8
3.3.1	Water Quality	8
3.3.2	Pollution	9
3.3.3	NHS	9
4	Next Steps	10
4.1	Upcoming Events	10
	Appendix A - Meeting Agenda	11

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Public Workshop

1.1.1 Purpose

On Thursday June 24th, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm, an Environmental Focus Group was held for the City of Brampton Official Plan Review focusing on the draft proposed City Structure framework. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Official Plan Review project, engagement events held to date, and provide information on how to further participate in the process. It was also an opportunity to collaborate and engage in open discussion to address the key themes related to the City's draft Official Plan Structure. The event was organized as follows (see Appendix A – Meeting Agenda):

Part 1 - Introduction and Housekeeping: Indigenous land acknowledgement; introductions and welcome statements. City staff reviewed the meeting objectives.

Part 2 - Presentation: City staff provided an overview of key Official Plan drivers, structure maps and directions of discussion paper.

Part 3 - Discussion: Public engagement period.

Part 4 - Next Steps: Discussed other ways to provide feedback.

Consultation materials available online at the following link:

<https://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/Official-Plan/Pages/Engagement-Recaps.aspx>

1.2 Meeting Overview

1.2.1 Meeting Details (Venue, # of Attendees, Meeting Participants)

Approximately 15 members of the public and 4 City of Brampton Staff attended the Focus Group Meeting that was hosted on WebEx. Comments were received through the WebEx chat box. Polling was removed for this session to allow for additional time for discussion. Direct engagement and comments were prioritized to provide feedback and address concerns.

1.3 Outreach

The meeting was promoted through E-blast outreach to The Brampton Environmental Advisory Committee, the City's Grow Green Network, as well as Environmental Planning staff's general contact list.



**BRAMPTON
PLAN**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
FOCUS GROUP**

JUNE 24th | 6pm - 8pm

Engagement on Brampton's future
We want to hear from you!

3-1-1 |     brampton.ca/bramptonplan



2 Feedback

2.1 Discussion Questions

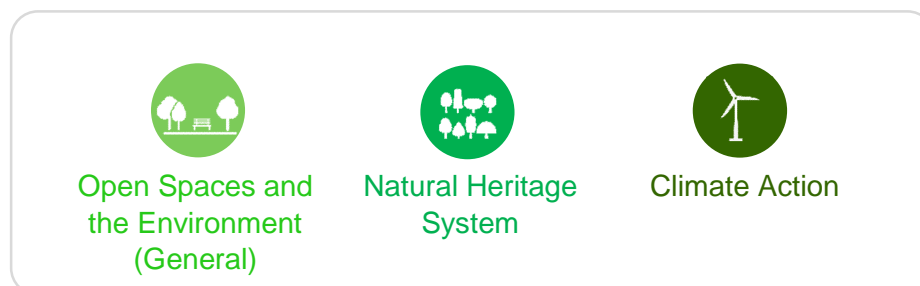
Discussion prompts were posed during the public meeting presentation to obtain a better understanding of participants and what they believed are important characteristics which Brampton Plan should focus on from an environmental planning and climate change perspective. The full scope of responses can be found in Section 3. Further questions and conversation resulted in various individual questions, comments and concerns from participants, including what is missing from the current Official Plan from the lens of environment, sustainability and climate change.

2.2 Comments Received

The Word Cloud below visually represents some of the things that were heard. All the feedback received has been categorized in the Word Cloud below.



KEY THEMES



The key messages related to these themes are further detailed in Section 3 of this report.

3 Key Messages Heard

3.1 Open Spaces and the Environment (General)

3.1.1 Naturalization

- Naturalization of lawns should be encouraged.
- A review of naturalization by-laws is necessary.

3.1.2 Energy

- Consider labelling communities for their energy performance
- Develop roads for electric low speed vehicles.
- The City needs to develop policy that allows for grid feedback.

3.1.3 Other

- Encourage more lists of city preferred vendors.
- City should source developers who use innovative strategies in sustainability and architectural form.
- Explore CIP incentives.
- Brampton still holds a reputation as a blue collar community that does not warrant these types of (sustainable, eco-friendly) development.
- The current provincial government is very developer friendly.
- Anything that encourages the discussion is around our environment is good.

3.2 Natural Heritage System

3.2.1 NHS Protection and Education

- Be multidisciplinary in our approach to NHS Planning – in reality everything is connected
- Consider the approach that nature runs through everything and everyone.
- NHS needs to have a broader definition that extends to the front and back yards of homes and buildings.
- People need to understand the value of NSH on their own property.
- The Official Plan needs to have policy to provide guidance for green retrofits through Secondary Plan reviews, and create more intentional green spaces in new development to help transition the built and natural environments but also to provide equity in access.

3.2.2 Access and Equity

- A multidisciplinary approach allows us to layer in Brampton's socio-economic composition, economic class, and cultural matrix.
- High curbs connecting streets to pathways represent a significant barrier to NHS accessibility. The city is currently working on this but it needs to be accelerated.
- Beautify pathways in NHS to dispel safety issues.
- Lighting, and wayfinding is essential – almost all trails have no wayfinding.
- We have to better understand the need and values of all community members, and what infrastructure and community improves are necessary to make these places more comfortable for all of these places.
- We have to apply a strong equity lens to ensure folks' background or reluctance to participate doesn't preclude their future use of these spaces.
- Would like to see Greenbelt natural heritage strongly protected & publicly accessible.

3.2.3 Tree Canopy

- Tree cover is very different in affluent areas vs less affluent (support equity).
- Tree cover also provides significant shade and wind break.
- 3-30-300 rule see 3 trees, have 30% tree cover and have access to green space within 300m of proximity.

3.3 Climate Action

3.3.1 Water Quality

- Water quality needs to be improved and has deteriorated over time.
- Salting roads, Stormwater Management, land use planning, road paving over urban river valleys, etc have contributed to the lower water quality.

- City must develop thresholds for water quality, or we risk losing the bio-diversity that exists.
- Stormwater Management Ponds – why does our policy state that these are the keepers of “wastewater” that needs to be drained and potentially disturb ecology?
- Draining is necessary to remove heavy metals.
- Develop a treatment approach to help intercept water prior to going into these ponds.
- Declare Brampton watercourses a sacred resource.

3.3.2 Pollution

- Policies should have a strong focus on pollution and biodiversity.
- Local retrofit grants can encourage homeowner retrofits and reduce pollution.
- Banning of pesticides within Etobicoke Creek and golf courses.

3.3.3 NHS

- Benchmarking towards being is climate change leader is necessary – leveraging European examples.
- Be honest and transparent about what climate leadership means and how we get there.
- Strength – NHS (we don't value it the way we should) not considered a place where people have good tree coverage and other things.
- We likely are within the top 10-15% in terms of our extensive NHS.
- Tree Strategy and Eco-Park need policy support.

4 Next Steps

4.1 Upcoming Events

There will be several opportunities to participate in the Brampton Official Plan Review process. One way is to provide your input on a series of Discussion Papers related to the Official Plan, which were presented to the public during three (3) Public Open House meetings scheduled on June 7, 2021 June 21, 2021 and July 26, 2021. Materials, when available, can be accessed by visiting the project webpage and can be found under 'Engagement Recaps'). Public Engagement events, as they are scheduled, and a link to the Brampton Plans surveys, can be found on the project webpage at the link below:

[City of Brampton | Official Plan | Engagement Recaps](#)

Email the City at the email address below to be informed of upcoming engagement events.

opreview@brampton.ca

Appendix A - Meeting Agenda

AGENDA



Job Title	City of Brampton Official Plan Review		
Date	Thursday June 24th, 2021	Time	6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Venue	Webex		
Purpose	Focus Group Meeting – Environment		

- 1) Introduction and Overview of the Agenda**
 - Indigenous Land Acknowledgment
 - Introduction from Mayor and Staff
 - Agenda overview
- 2) Presentation**
 - Brampton 2040 Vision
 - Planning 101
 - Brampton Plan Overview
 - Engagement and Next Steps
- 3) Discussion**
 - Discussion Questions
- 4) Next Steps and adjournment**
 - Ways to stay engaged