The Greening Strategy promotes on the ground action that supports healthy natural environments. It plants the seeds of inspiration for people of all ages to cultivate sustainable communities, now and for the future.

2019 GREENING STRATEGY ACHIEVEMENTS
Trees and shrubs produce oxygen, remove pollutants, reduce floods, filter water, improve health, provide shade and offer many more valuable ecosystem services.

**ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION**

102,332 trees were planted through more than 21 partnerships and many programs including:

- 67,986 Grow Your Legacy program
- 14,180 York Regional property plantings
- 9,766 Green Action Partnership Fund
- 3,063 Adopt-A-Stream Crossing
- 7,337 Other programs

Plantings occurred on both public and private land. Enhancement is accomplished for all habitat types including woodlands, meadows, prairies, wetlands and streams.

**STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION**

Our greatest gains are when residents are inspired to make a personal commitment to protect and preserve the natural environment.

**PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

Protection of our Regional Greenland System is fundamental to achieving our canopy and woodland cover targets and an ecologically diverse natural environment.

**LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION**

To support a diverse and healthy ecosystem, York Region shares knowledge, demonstrates leadership and promotes innovation with partners and local municipalities.

In 2019, The Region’s Green Infrastructure Asset Management Plan received the Silver Green World Award for Environmental Best Practices. The Green World Organization is dedicated to recognizing, rewarding and promoting environmental best practices around the world.

**ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION**

- 102,332 TREES AND SHRUBS EXCEEDED TARGET OF 70,000 PLANTINGS
- 67,986 Grow Your Legacy program
- 14,180 York Regional property plantings
- 9,766 Green Action Partnership Fund
- 3,063 Adopt-A-Stream Crossing
- 7,337 Other programs

**STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION**

- ENGAGED 13,061 RESIDENTS AT 292 EVENTS
- 101 EVENTS HOSTED BY YORK REGION

Residents learned about the importance of the natural environment and the benefits of trees at a variety of events hosted by York Region and partners. These events provide opportunity to further educate residents about protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

**PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

- 9 HECTARES PROTECTED

In 2019, the Region secured a property in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, linking natural areas in the Greenland System and expanding the York Regional Forest. Since 2001, this program has protected more than 1,376 hectares of environmentally significant land.

Through partnership agreements, partners work cooperatively with residents, municipalities and others to encourage environmental land protection and secure individual lands.

**LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION**

- EXCHANGED INFORMATION, SHARED ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTINUED INNOVATION AT 14 REGIONAL FORUMS AND SEVEN TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

**PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

- $10 MILLION LEVERAGED OVER 8 YEARS THROUGH DISASTER MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION FUND

Natural Heritage and Forestry secured $10 Million in federal funding to support land securement and tree planting to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat and flooding.

**STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION**

- NEW SENIORS PILOT PROGRAMS DELIVERED WITH PARTNERS

Senior specific outdoor education programming was created to teach seniors about the benefits of connecting with nature and to highlight the York Regional Forest.

Continued development is supported through new funding from Ontario’s Community Grant and partnerships with York Region Community and Health Services Department and the Oak Ridges Trail Association.

**TARGETS**

**WOODLAND COVER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>2031 Target</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CANOPY COVER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current</th>
<th>2031 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**REACHED MORE THAN 50,000 RESIDENTS ANNUALLY THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEDIA**

**PROGRAM, PARTNERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENT HISTORY**

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Greening Strategy Adopted</td>
<td>• Forest Walks and Events</td>
<td>• Significant Woodland Criteria</td>
<td>• Backyard Tree Planting</td>
<td>• First York Regional Forest Accessible Trail</td>
<td>• Envirothon Education Competition</td>
<td>• One Millionth Tree Planted</td>
<td>• Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre Opens</td>
<td>• York Region Forest Management Plan</td>
<td>• State of the Forests Report</td>
<td>• Monarch Friendly Region</td>
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**47 HECTARES OF WOODLAND COVER CREATED IN 2019**

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**SILVER AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES**

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**ESTIMATED 30 MILLION TREES IN YORK REGION**

**TARGETS**

- **Woodland Cover**
  - Current: 23%
  - 2031 Target: 25%
  - 2031 Target: 31%

- **Canopy Cover**
  - Current: 25%
  - 2031 Target: 35%

**Program, Partnership and Achievement History**

- 2001: Greening Strategy Adopted
- 2002: Forest Walks and Events
- 2005: Significant Woodland Criteria
- 2007: Backyard Tree Planting
- 2010: First York Regional Forest Accessible Trail
- 2012: Envirothon Education Competition
- 2013: One Millionth Tree Planted
- 2015: Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre Opens
- 2016: York Region Forest Management Plan
- 2018: Monarch Friendly Region

**It’s in our Nature: Management Plan for the York Regional Forest 2019-2038 adopted**

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