PURPOSE AND OUTLINE

PURPOSE

Present an update on the activities, partnerships and 2018 Greening Strategy achievements

OUTLINE

1. History of the Greening Strategy
2. Benefits of Green Infrastructure
3. 2018 Greening Strategy Achievements
4. Working with Municipal Partners
5. Next Steps
HISTORY OF THE GREENING STRATEGY

• Adopted in 2001

• 4 Action Areas
  • Stewardship and Education
  • Enhancement and Rehabilitation
  • Land Protection and Preservation
  • Leadership, Innovation and Knowledge

• Links to
  • York Region Official Plan
  • Vision 2051
  • 2019-2023 Corporate Strategic Plan
  • York Region Forest Management Plan
GROWING TREE CANOPY AND WOODLAND COVER

• Achieving 35% tree canopy cover will require both growing the existing canopy and planting new trees

• Achieving 25% woodland in a growing Region requires both protection and a net gain of 3,144 hectares by 2031

• 25% woodland cover will require 262 hectares of new forest each year

• Greening Strategy plants 25-50 hectares per year – leveraging partnerships helps narrow the gap
BENEFITS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Access to GREEN SPACE improves Physical Health, Mental Health, Overall Wellbeing

(Toronto Public Health, 2015; David Suzuki Foundation, 2015)

FORESTS & TREES reduce air-borne pollutants, including: Ozone, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, and Particulate Matter

(David Suzuki Foundation, 2015)

UV PROTECTION decreased exposure to UV rays

MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

Healthy trees, Healthy communities.
15,613 residents engaged through 289 outreach events (101 hosted by York Region)

Monthly hikes attracted 1,214 residents

7 seniors education programs inspired 121 people

Festivals, walks, outreach and education events include:

- Nature’s Classroom programs
- Earth Week activities
- Children’s Water Festival
- National Forest Week Festival
- Tree Bee classroom competition
- Envirothon student challenge
## Enhancement and Rehabilitation

**Our Target**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Plantings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adopt-A-Stream Crossing Program</td>
<td>3,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Regional Forest</td>
<td>4,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Week and National Forest Week</td>
<td>6,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large-scale private land reforestation</td>
<td>63,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partner community planting events</td>
<td>10,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York Region outreach and education events</td>
<td>2,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backyard LEAF</td>
<td>563</td>
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<tr>
<td>York Region Property Naturalization</td>
<td>10,971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 101,122 trees and shrubs planted.

Plantings occur on public and private land in all nine municipalities.

**44.4 hectares**

of new woodlands created in 2018.
- Program has protected 1,367 hectares in York Region since 2001 (e.g. Happy Valley Forest)

- Partnership with Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust protected 32.5 hectare Maple Cross Nature Reserve in Township of King

- Contributed $741,615 (36% of the total cost) towards purchase

- Working with local municipalities, conservation authorities, non-government agencies and residents
- Forest Stewardship and Education Centre – 1st building in Canada to achieve full Living Building Challenge certification

- Award winning Green Infrastructure Management Plan
  - Lieutenant Governor, Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation

- Municipal Information Exchange Forums
  - Invasive Species Management
  - Environmental Advisory Committees
  - Urban Forestry

- Lead Urban Forestry Subcommittee
  - Regional Public Works Commissioners of Ontario

- Ecohealth Ontario - Benefits of trees on public health
GREENING STRATEGY

WORKING WITH OUR LOCAL MUNICIPAL PARTNERS

Projects and collaboration in all local municipalities including:

• Land protection and preservation projects
• Urban Forest Studies and Urban Forest Management Planning
• Community tree planting events
• Monarch butterfly habitat initiatives
• Local Environmental Advisory Committee coordination and support
• Technical Working Groups and Forums
NEXT STEPS

• Continue with partnership implementation

• Continue to review and refine program including targets

• Re-assess tree canopy and woodland cover metrics in 2020

• Implement priority actions towards increasing canopy and woodland cover

May the forest be with you!