

A man wearing a brown hat, sunglasses, and a green t-shirt is smiling and helping two young children plant a tree. The children are wearing colorful clothing and hats. They are in a grassy field with other people in the background. The right side of the image has a teal background with white text.

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES Greening Achievements 2018

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May 2, 2019



# 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



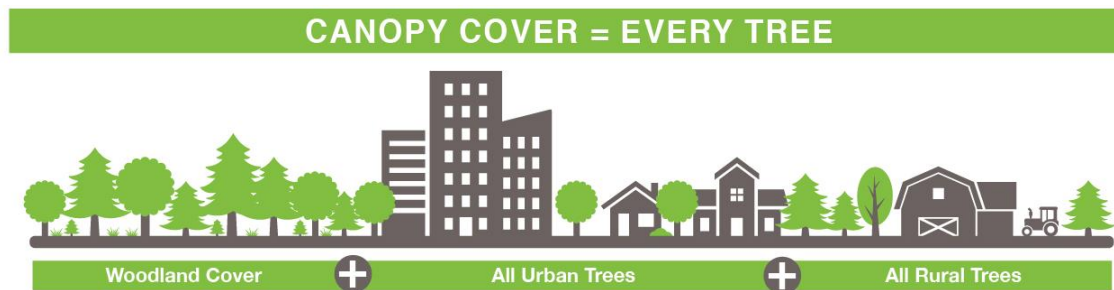
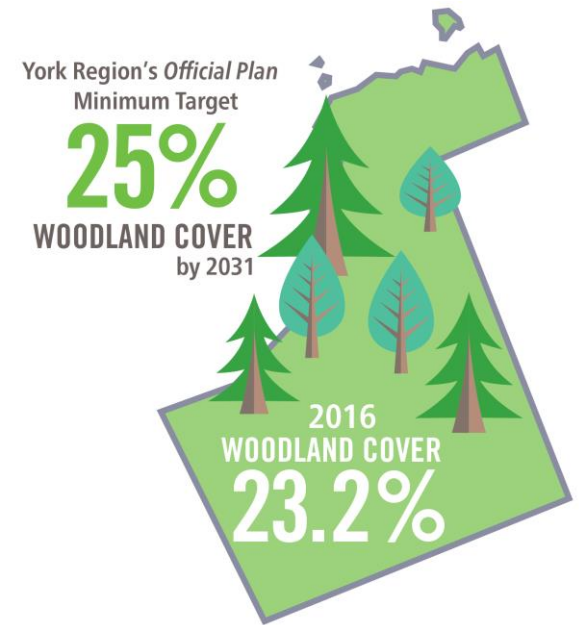
# HISTORY OF THE GREENING STRATEGY

- 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





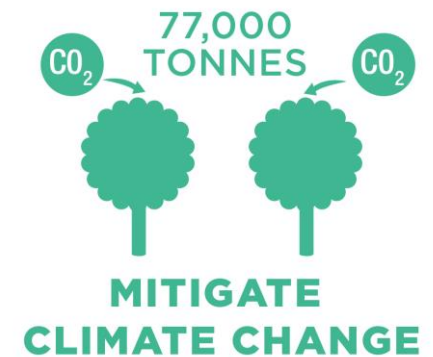
# BENEFITS OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



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



(David Suzuki Foundation, 2015)





# STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION

- 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  
70,000



## 101,122 TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED

3,094

Adopt-A-Stream  
Crossing Program

4,017

York  
Regional  
Forest

6,070

Earth Week  
and National  
Forest Week  
seedling  
hand out

63,562

Large-scale  
private land  
reforestations  
with conservation  
authorities

10,166

Partner  
community  
planting events

2,679

York Region  
outreach and  
education  
events

563

Backyard  
LEAF

10,971

York Region  
Property  
Naturalization



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



44.4 HECTARES

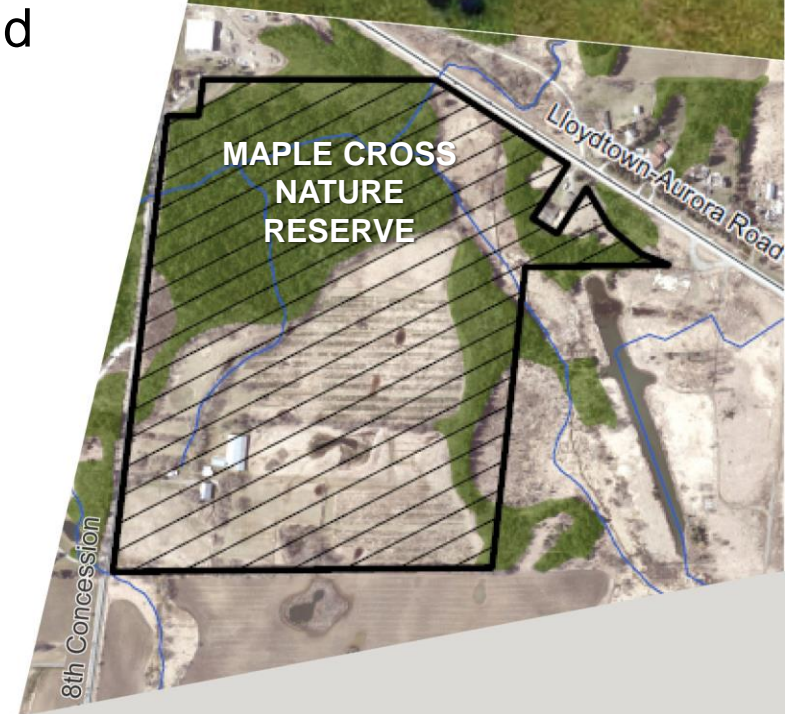
OF NEW WOODLANDS CREATED IN 2018





## PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

- 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







# LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

- Forest Stewardship and Education Centre – 1<sup>st</sup> 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

