



2019 GREENING STRATEGY ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

YORK REGION FORESTRY
Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities



ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION

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



PLANTED
102,332 TREES AND SHRUBS

EXCEEDED TARGET OF 70,000 PLANTINGS

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.



47 HECTARES

OF WOODLAND COVER CREATED IN 2019

Targets

WOODLAND COVER

Current

2031 Target

23%

25%

CANOPY COVER

Current

2031 Target

31%

35%

STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION

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



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.



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.



REACHED MORE THAN
50,000 RESIDENTS
ANNUALLY

THROUGH A VARIETY OF MEDIA

PROGRAM, PARTNERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENT HISTORY

2001	2002	2005	2007	2010	2012
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening Strategy Adopted • Partnerships and Programs Begin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Walks and Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant Woodland Criteria • Forest Conservation Bylaw Update 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backyard Tree Planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First York Regional Forest Accessible Trail • Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Envirothon Education Competition • Greening Strategy Refinement

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.



9 HECTARES PROTECTED

In 2019, the Region secured a property in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, linking natural areas in the Greenlands 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.



\$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.

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

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

Exchanged information, shared accomplishments and continued innovation at **14 Regional forums** and **seven technical presentations** throughout the Region.



SILVER AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BEST PRACTICES

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.



ESTIMATED 30 MILLION TREES IN YORK REGION

PROGRAM, PARTNERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENT HISTORY

2013

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

- One Millionth Tree Planted

- Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre Opens

- York Region Forest Management Plan

- State of the Forests Report
- Monarch Friendly Region

- Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre receives full Living Building Challenge Certification

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



FORESTRY

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