

Clause 8 in Report No. 6 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 21, 2016.

8

2015 Greening Strategy Achievements

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. Receipt of the presentation by Ian Buchanan, Manager, Natural Heritage and Forestry Services, Environmental Services.
2. Receipt of the deputation from Susan Walmer, Executive Director, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust regarding “Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust Update for 2015”.
3. Receipt of the deputation by Todd Farrell, Coordinator, Conservation Biology, Ontario Region – Central, Nature Conservancy of Canada.
4. Adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report dated February 25, 2016 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services:
 1. Council authorize renewal of agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, each for a further term of three years, and the renewal of the agreement with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests for a further term of two years, with respect to the Regional Greening Strategy.
 2. Council authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Services to approve further renewals of the agreements, provided that sufficient funds are available in the annual budget and that the total of any renewal terms does not exceed 10 years.
 3. Council authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Services to execute the agreements and any renewal agreements on behalf of the Region.
 4. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

2015 Greening Strategy Achievements

Report dated February 25, 2016 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services now follows:

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Council authorize renewal of agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, each for a further term of three years, and the renewal of the agreement with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests for a further term of two years, with respect to the Regional Greening Strategy.
2. Council authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Services to approve further renewals of the agreements, provided that sufficient funds are available in the annual budget and that the total of any renewal terms does not exceed 10 years.
3. Council authorize the Commissioner of Environmental Services to execute the agreements and any renewal agreements on behalf of the Region.
4. The Regional Clerk forward a copy of this report to Environment and Climate Change Canada, Natural Resources Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.

2. Purpose

This report provides Council with an update on activities, partnerships and achievements of the Greening Strategy in 2015. This report also seeks Council authorization to renew successful Greening Strategy partnership agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) and Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF).

3. Background

Since 2001, Greening Strategy partnerships and programs have protected, restored and enhanced the natural environment

Since adoption of the innovative Greening Strategy in 2001, achievements have been reported annually to Council. Focussed implementation delivers hands-on action consistent with forward-thinking environmental policies in the Regional Official Plan. Greening projects and other Forestry programs are aligned to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment. Programs including planting trees and restoring forests have multiple benefits ranging from climate change mitigation to public health improvements.

Implementation is achieved through strategic partnerships with non-government organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests. These partnerships leverage resources to protect the environment and enhance local communities. Since 2001, environmental land protection and preservation partnerships have protected 1,271 hectares of environmental land worth \$92 million, due in large part to a Regional contribution of \$14 million.

4. Analysis and Options

2015 greening achievements increase forest cover, provide public health benefits and enhance our sustainable communities

Council's investment in the Greening Strategy, including tree planting and the creation of forests, contributes to health benefits for residents. There is increasing scientific evidence demonstrating the link between human health benefits and the presence of green infrastructure, including trees and shrubs.

Greening Strategy programs are designed to increase awareness of the benefits of green infrastructure, inspire action, and provide opportunities that support on the ground action. Attachment 1 showcases some of the 2015 Greening Strategy achievements.

2015 was another successful year for Greening Strategy delivery with all targets exceeded

All 2015 Greening Strategy targets were surpassed through delivery of partnerships and programs. Action areas of the Strategy and annual achievement targets are shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Greening Strategy action areas, goals and annual targets

Action Area	Goal	Target (minimum)	2015 Achievement	Complete
Stewardship and education	Environmental education and landowner outreach	100 outreach events	187 outreach events	ü
		Reach 50,000 residents ¹	Over 50,000 residents reached ¹	ü
Enhancement and rehabilitation	Tree, shrub, wetland and prairie planting	Plant 70,000 trees and shrubs	94,637 trees and shrubs planted	ü
Environmental land protection and preservation	Acquisition of key conservation lands	Protect 65 hectares of land	73.9 hectares protected	ü
Leadership, innovation and knowledge	Facilitate research, collaboration, science and technology transfer	Host 4 regional forums	16 forums hosted	ü
		Present at 2 science/technology forums	6 presentations at science and technology forums	ü

¹ includes outreach and contacts through media (social, print, television, etc.)

The following is a summary of 2015 achievement highlights.

18,300 residents engaged in 187 events across the Region to increase awareness of the natural environment

A total of 187 environmental outreach events engaged 18,300 residents, and participation in nearly all program areas increased over 2014. Forest education and stewardship programs delivered by York Region, many in the York Regional Forest, continue to show an upward trend in participation. These programs included delivery of 51 guided hikes, 19 public forest events, two seasonal forest

2015 Greening Strategy Achievements

festivals, five Emerald Ash Borer events, two regional education competitions for students, and 19 volunteer environmental action events. Special celebrations such as Earth Week, National Forest Week and National Tree Day, drew a total of 716 participants.

Collaboration on 86 partner-led environmental events (including the Windfall Ecology Festival) engaged more than 15,000 people. Residents learn about Greening Strategy programs and initiatives through a variety of media (social, print, television, etc.). In addition to those residents who participated in outreach events well over 50,000 residents were reached through a variety of media.

Increased participation can be attributed to a growing reputation for delivering quality programs and stimulating experiences

In part, increased participation and engagement numbers are achieved through adjusting program availability in response to pre-registration interest and annual reviews. Continuous improvement of program delivery is made annually in response to user surveys. In addition, strategic promotions including engaging use of social media and print media, have increased the Region's reach with residents beyond the 50,000 target and therefore raised awareness of programs.

Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre received Wood Design Award at Fifteenth Annual Wood Works Event

On November 12, 2015 the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre received the Wood Design award from Ontario Wood Works. Wood Works is a national campaign led by the Canadian Wood Council to increase the use of wood in commercial, industrial and institutional building construction. The Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre received one of nine awards given to specific wood projects throughout Canada. The intent of the award is to recognize design excellence and innovation in the use of wood in all types of construction. This innovative building project has also been selected by the Canadian Wood Council to be profiled across Canada as the national case study.

Through partnerships 94,637 trees and shrubs were planted, contributing to 39 hectares of new forest

In 2015, 94,637 trees and shrubs were planted through a variety of Greening Strategy initiatives. Through partners and funding grants an additional \$306,065 was leveraged towards these initiatives, which is more than matching of the Region's contribution of \$215,000. Planting efforts contributed to 39 hectares of new forest primarily located in the Regional Greenlands system. The following are tree planting program activities that contributed to the overall achievement:

- Large-scale private land reforestation in partnership with Conservation Authorities (22,990 trees, 11 hectares of new forest)

2015 Greening Strategy Achievements

- Adopt-a-Stream Crossing program delivered 17 planting events in six local municipalities with 187 volunteers, planting more than 1,043 trees along streams within Regional road right-of-ways
- York Regional Forest tree planting in the Clarke and Davis Drive Tracts and Drysdale Woods (Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville), totalled 2,247 trees
- Backyard Tree Planting Program for urban residential properties delivered in partnership with LEAF across all nine local municipalities (613 trees, 60 per cent higher than 2014)
- Collaboration with local municipalities providing tree seedlings to promote the Greening Strategy during Earth Week and National Tree Day (3,560 trees)
- Support for outreach and education events such as the Children's Water Festival and Forests Ontario community planting event (2,381 trees)
- York Region property naturalization at the Mount Albert Water Resource Recovery Facility (14,450 trees, 7.5 hectares of new forest) and street tree planting (3,328 trees)
- Greening support for community planting events hosted by local municipalities or partners (8,635 trees, 2.5 hectares of new forest)
- Greening support for large-scale public land reforestation in partnership with Conservation Authorities (35,390 trees, 18 hectares of new forest)

Residential Backyard Tree Planting program gains momentum and delivery agreement with LEAF is recommended for renewal

Initiated in 2007, this program is available to all York Region residents at a subsidized rate and has planted more than 3,500 trees Region-wide. In 2013, an agreement with LEAF for the delivery of this program was executed for a three year term ending in April 2016. The backyard tree planting program encompasses tree planting, education and awareness and provides an additional focus on areas with advanced Emerald Ash Borer infestation.

LEAF works cooperatively with local municipalities to encourage participation in the residential tree planting program. Community engagement focusses primarily on areas infested by Emerald Ash Borer and areas with low tree canopy cover. The program continues to gain momentum and in 2015 tree planting achievements were the highest since the program began. The partnership agreement is recommended for renewal to continue delivery of this growing and highly effective program. The proposed term of the agreement is two years with a commitment of \$100,000 per year.

2015 Greening Strategy Achievements

\$1.5 million partnership contribution by the Region protected 73.9 hectares within three Regional Greenlands System sites

Three sites, two in King Township and one in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, as shown on Attachment 2, totalling 73.9 hectares of land (\$4 million appraised value) were protected through donation and acquisition as seen in Table 2.

Strategic partnerships with local municipalities, Conservation Authorities, NCC, and ORMLT leveraged resources and delivered results. The following describes characteristics of each property:

- Supported through York Region’s partnership agreement, the National Conservancy of Canada acquired a 21 hectare property, which is adjacent to the Happy Valley Tract of the York Regional Forest on the Oak Ridges Moraine in King Township.
- In partnership with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the Region contributed \$1,414,500 supporting the \$2,760,000 purchase of 44.2 hectares (Dalton property) as a key linkage in Nashville Conservation Reserve. Located within the Humber River watershed, the property contains important environmental lands as well as opportunities to increase forest cover.
- 8.7 hectare parcel of land designated as “Natural Feature Conservation Area” and therefore undevelopable, was transferred to the Region as part of the development approval process for a plan of subdivision in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. These lands are adjacent to the Clarke Tract of the York Regional Forest and have increased the size of this Tract from 75.5 hectares to 84.2 hectares.

Table 2
Properties Secured in 2015

Property	Municipality	Size (ha)	Partner and Contribution	York Region Contribution	Property Value**
Dalton	King	44.2	\$1,414,500 (TRCA)	\$1,414,500	\$2,760,000
Happy Valley	King	21.0	\$1,193,700 (NCC)	\$120,000*	\$1,193,700
Clarke Tract addition	Whitchurch-Stouffville	8.7	Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville	\$0	N/A
Total		73.9	\$2,608,200	\$1,534,000	\$3,953,700

2015 Greening Strategy Achievements

*The Region has an agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada with an annual contribution of \$120,000 in accordance with a Council approved three year partnership agreement (2013 to 2016).

** Property value does not include funding required to coordinate the transaction

Agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust are key to environmental land protection and preservation, and are recommended for renewal

Agreements with the NCC and the ORMLT have been in place since 2001 and 2002 respectively, contributing to Regional Greening achievements. In 2013, both of these agreements were renewed for a three year term ending in April 2016. Agreements are recommended for renewal, to continue delivery of these two highly effective partnerships. The term for each agreement is three years, with a commitment of \$120,000 per year for NCC and \$50,000 per year for ORMLT. Each draft agreement has been reviewed by the partners and the Region's legal staff. Continued support for these agreements is integral to the Region's long-term commitment to preserving green spaces.

Nearly 65 per cent of all Greening Strategy environmental land protection and preservation achievements are a result of these two partnerships

Agreements with Nature Conservancy of Canada and Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust have provided a high level of effectiveness, achievement, and profile for York Region. To date, nearly 65 per cent of all Greening Strategy environmental land protection and preservation achievements are a result of these two partnerships. These agreements provide base funding to help advance negotiations with land owners on securement of individual properties, with a focus on Conservation Easements, bequests, donations and (as a lower priority) fee simple acquisition. When strategic property purchases are negotiated, these opportunities for partnership acquisition are brought to Council for consideration of purchase with a funding contribution from the Region's Greening Strategy land securement reserve. Agreements with not-for-profit, grassroots, credible organizations, help to achieve a high level of performance and optimize the return on investment across all of the Greening Strategy Action Areas.

Progress towards achieving 25 per cent forest cover continues to be advanced

Per cent forest cover is an important metric for healthy sustainable natural environments, as reflected in the Official Plan 25 per cent forest cover target by 2031. Based on 2012 data, forest cover in the Region is 22.8 per cent. In April 2015, staff presented the Greening Strategy achievements update to Committee, and advised that going forward the forest cover target would be reviewed along

with tree canopy cover on a five-year cycle. This will help align Greening Strategy monitoring and reporting with actions benefiting both forest cover and tree canopy. Actions completed in 2015 include: stakeholder consultation and preliminary evaluation of forest and canopy cover targets, completion of the Town of Newmarket Urban Forest Study, and completion of an Integrated Monitoring Summary. Combined, these efforts will be used to inform the development of a York Region Strategic Forest Management Plan.

York Region Strategic Forest Management Plan is underway and will be brought to Regional Council for endorsement this year

Projects currently underway that will contribute to the Plan include an interim assessment of forest cover, and completion of a joint Urban Forest Study for the four remaining municipalities (Towns of Georgina, East Gwillimbury and Whitchurch-Stouffville, and Township of King). A technical advisory committee consisting of representatives from local municipalities, Conservation Authorities, and York Region staff, advance development of the Plan. The Plan will review forest and canopy cover targets, guide monitoring and assessment, recommend techniques to protect and maintain individual trees and forests, and outline short, medium and long term implementation tactics to achieve the specific targets. In 2016, efforts are focussed on completion of the York Region Strategic Forest Management Plan and reporting to Regional Council in the fall.

Region supports local municipalities in Urban Forest Studies, which assess tree canopy cover and community benefits

Trees contribute to our overall environmental health through oxygen production, providing clean air and water, reduced risk of flooding and heat reduction. Results from Urban Forest Studies, completed in partnership with York Region for the Cities of Markham and Vaughan, and the Towns of Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill, estimate that 963 tonnes of pollutants are removed from the air each year by the urban forest. These trees save residents \$5.8 million in energy costs from heating in winter and cooling in summer, provide cooler communities, increase property values and provide recreational opportunities.

In 2015, the Town of Newmarket's Urban Forest Study was completed. Amongst the many findings, the study estimated that 294,755 trees in the Town of Newmarket remove up to 40 tonnes of air pollution annually and provide \$334,533 of annual energy savings for residential buildings. Tree canopy cover in the Town of Newmarket is lower than some other local municipalities due to its size and urban context. Despite the low tree canopy cover the study indicates that the benefits provided by the Town of Newmarket's trees are relatively high. This is largely due to having a mature urban forest with larger trees.

Link to key Council-approved plans

Delivery of the Greening Strategy, specifically through partnerships, agreements, incentives, community engagement and financial leveraging, supports Regional Official Plan 2010 policies and 2015-2019 Strategic Plan objective to preserve green spaces. The Greening Strategy supports the Regional Official Plan 2010 objective to protect and enhance the Greenlands System and work towards the 25 per cent forest cover target. The Greening Strategy is recognized as an influential document for Vision 2051 and its delivery supports seven of the eight goal areas.

5. Financial Implications

\$1.7 million invested to deliver Greening Strategy work in 2015

Through partnerships, the Greening Strategy leverages significant resources and funds for projects in each program area. For example, lands protected through Environmental Land Protection and Preservation programming targets a minimum of 2:1 of leveraged dollars to York Region contributions. Funding contributions leveraged through partnerships vary with each project, and often exceed the 2:1 ratio. Greening Strategy programs are reviewed annually to ensure alignment with Regional objectives. In 2015, \$1.7 million was allocated to deliver the Greening Strategy projects and programs, including land protection and preservation.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Local municipalities are important partners for Greening Strategy implementation

Local municipalities are consulted or involved in a number of implementation programs and projects, including Urban Forest Studies, local municipal tree planting projects and environmental land protection and preservation initiatives. Local municipal staffs are active on many Greening Strategy working groups including Land Securement Working Group, Invasive Species Working Group and Urban Forest Forum. Collaborative forums provide an opportunity for communication, engagement and alignment.

Greening Strategy programs provide local municipalities and residents with opportunities to enhance the natural environment

Greening initiatives support the protection of Regional and local natural heritage systems, which in turn supports sustainable communities. All nine local municipalities have a strong history of involvement in environmental projects and programs, and have benefited directly from the Greening Strategy.

7. Conclusion

Greening Strategy programs continue to be an effective mechanism to support the Region's environmental policies

For more than a decade, York Region has been recognized for its innovative leadership implementing the Greening Strategy. Progress to be demonstrated through increased participation and delivery in all program areas. Residents are provided with opportunities to engage in environmental education and action. Achievements contribute to the health and well-being of the Region's residents and represent a sound investment in green infrastructure. Programs and achievements continue to help realize the Region's environmental policies and objectives as articulated in the Regional Official Plan 2010, 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan and Vision 2051.

Partnerships are an effective tool for program delivery, which demonstrates good government

Delivery of the Greening Strategy, specifically through partnership agreements, incentives, community engagement and financial leveraging, is consistent with economic vitality and good government. More specifically, renewed agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests present a significant opportunity to further the environmental objectives of the Regional Official Plan and the Greening Strategy. Support for the Backyard Tree Planting program agreement also demonstrates the Region's commitment to a timely response to the Emerald Ash Borer infestation, and acknowledgement of the impact to private landowners. The Greening Strategy demonstrates York Region's continued commitment to a resilient natural environment that fosters healthy, sustainable communities for current and future generations.

2015 Greening Strategy Achievements

For more information on this report, please contact Laura McDowell, Director of Environmental Promotion and Protection at ext. 75077 or Ian Buchanan, Manager of Natural Heritage and Forestry at ext. 75204.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

February 25, 2016

Attachments (2)

#6690206

Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

Investing in
people
AND green
infrastructur



The Greening Strategy
is key to achieving the
**2015 TO 2019
CORPORATE
STRATEGIC PLAN**
objective to preserve
green spaces

LEARN ABOUT

NATURE
in
NATURE



Attachment 1

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
Environmental Services Department
Administrative Centre - 1st Floor
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON CAN
L3Y 6Z1

1-877-464-9675 ext. 73000

www.york.ca/forestry



2015 GREENING STRATEGY ACHIEVEMENTS

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

ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION

Focusing on increasing forest cover by offering incentives, subsidies and partnerships for public and private land tree planting.

STEWARDSHIP AND EDUCATION

Offering unique programs and events to provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature and be inspired to act.

PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION

Continuing to work collaboratively to protect the Regional Greenlands System and key linkages.

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION

Demonstrating leadership through innovative opportunities to share knowledge and seek new technologies.

More than **50,000** residents reached through a variety of media

Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre received **WOOD DESIGN AWARD**

Leveraged **\$2.9M** through partnerships (1.5 times Regional contribution)

Town of Newmarket Urban Forest Study estimates **40 TONNES OF AIR POLLUTION REMOVED ANNUALLY** by the town's urban forest

18,300 residents engaged through **187 EVENTS**

Planted **94,637 TREES**

Protected **73.9 HECTARES** of Greenlands System

3,000 participants in Emerald Ash Borer outreach programming

VIRTUAL TOUR of York Regional Forest North Tract **ACCESSIBLE TRAIL** goes live

3,328 TREES planted on urban streetscapes

Take A Walk events at **90% CAPACITY**

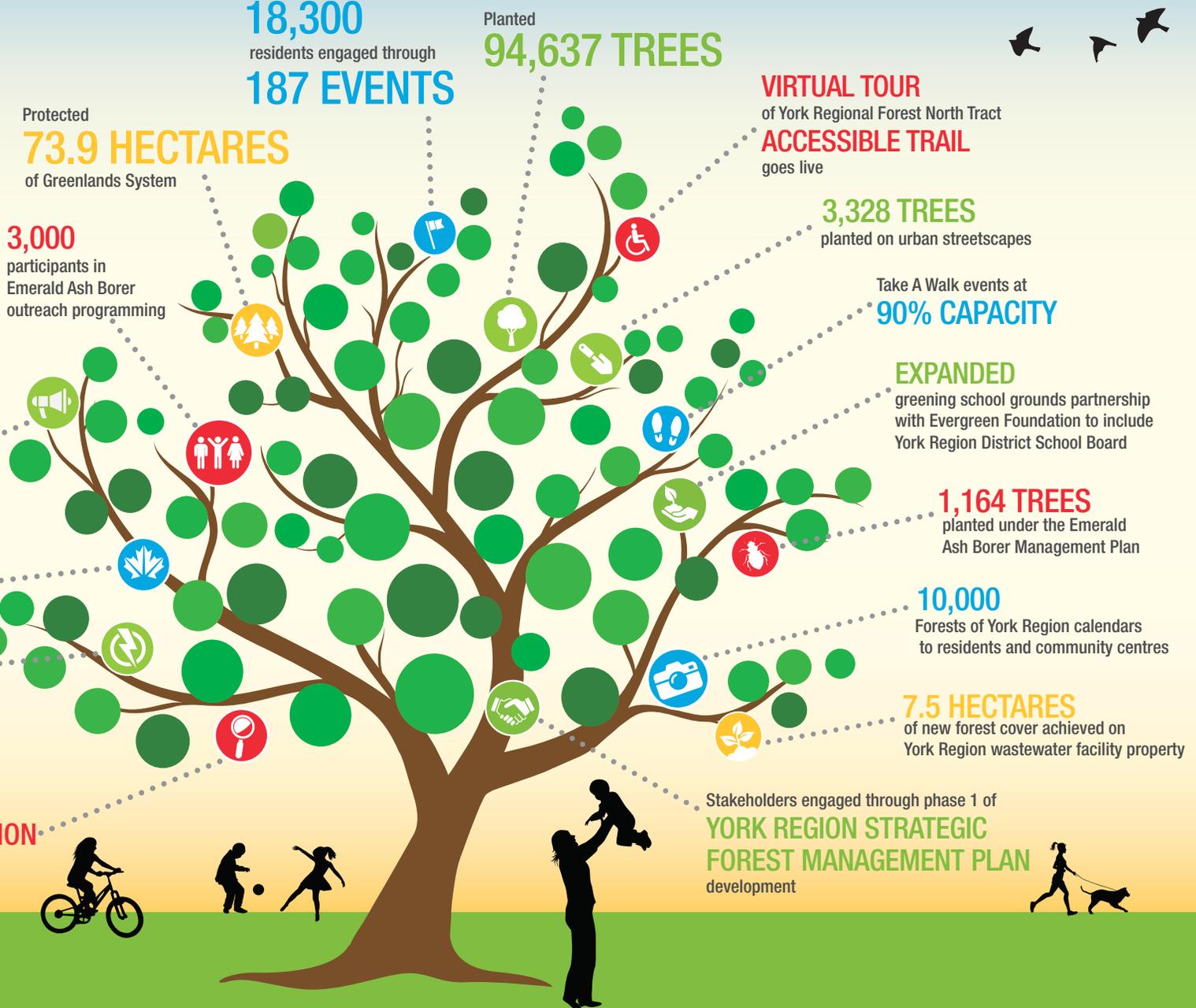
EXPANDED greening school grounds partnership with Evergreen Foundation to include York Region District School Board

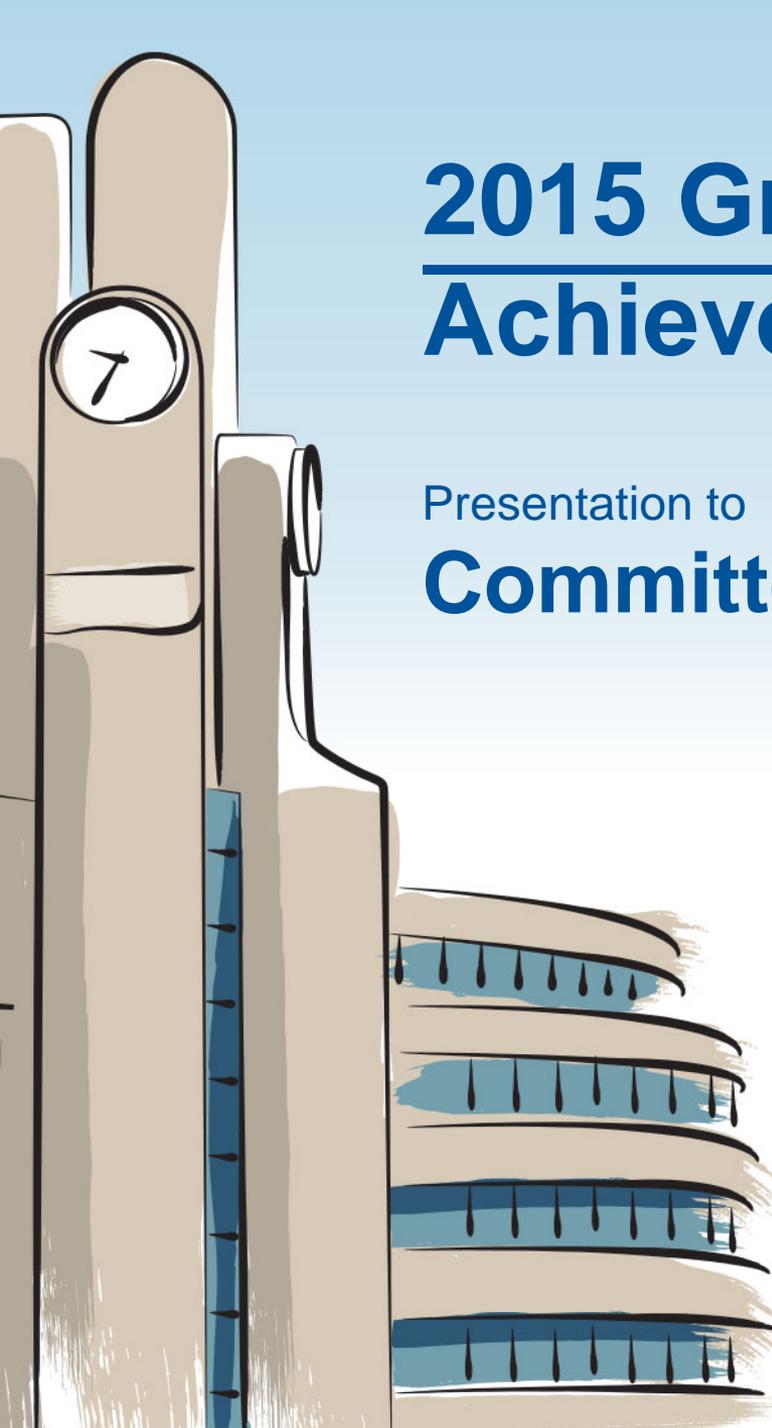
1,164 TREES planted under the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan

10,000 Forests of York Region calendars to residents and community centres

7.5 HECTARES of new forest cover achieved on York Region wastewater facility property

Stakeholders engaged through phase 1 of **YORK REGION STRATEGIC FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN** development





2015 Greening Strategy

Achievements

Presentation to

Committee of the Whole

Ian Buchanan
Manager Natural Heritage and Forestry

April 7, 2016



Agenda

- Background and benefits of *Green Infrastructure*
- 2015 Greening Strategy achievements
- Partnership Agreements
 - Nature Conservancy of Canada
 - Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
 - Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF)
- Next steps



Greening Strategy



- Adopted in 2001 as a response to a need for more environmental action
- Demonstrates commitment to Official Plan policies through on-the-ground action
- 4 Action Areas
 - Stewardship and education
 - Enhancement and rehabilitation
 - Environmental land protection and preservation
 - Leadership, innovation and knowledge
- Links to Council adopted
 - York Region Official Plan
 - Vision 2051 - supports 7 of the 8 goals
 - 2015 -19 Strategic Plan – Preserving Green Space

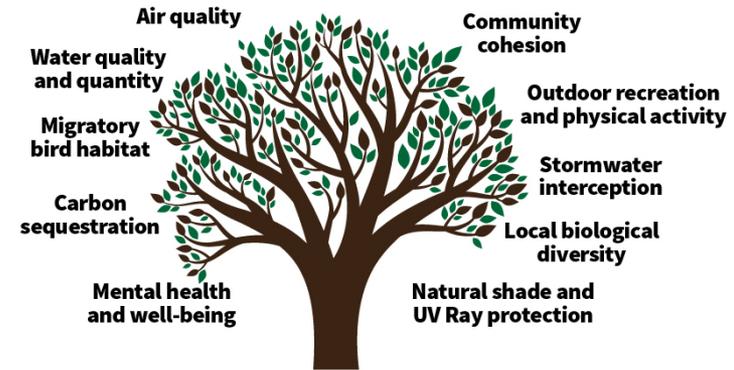


Investment in green infrastructure pays dividends in other areas and advances multiple Council goals

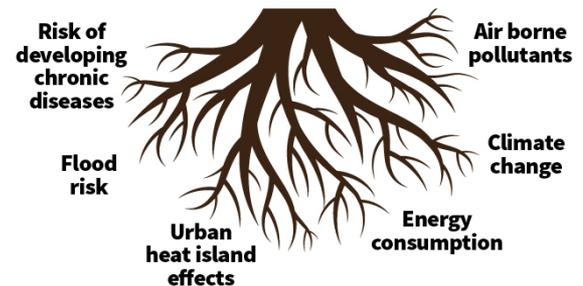
Achievements increase forest cover, public health benefits and enhance sustainable communities

- 963 metric tonnes of air pollution removed annually by urban forests in Markham, Vaughan, Aurora, Newmarket and Richmond Hill
- Urban forests have the greatest impact on reducing ground level ozone (contributes to smog and therefore respiratory difficulties)
- Science confirms link between human health and green infrastructure i.e. trees and shrubs
- More green means less respiratory disease obesity, chronic illness...

Studies have shown that **forests improve:**



Studies have shown that **forests reduce:**



Trees have environmental, economic and social value and provide multiple functions and services to residents

Stewardship and Education



- Festivals, hikes, community planting events, student programs, 2016 forest calendar and more
- 18,300 residents engaged through 187 outreach events
- Participation in nearly all areas increased
- Monthly forest hikes attract 875 residents
- Special environmental events included:
 - York Regional Forest Festivals (spring/fall)
 - National Forest Week
 - Participation in Earth Week, Children's Water Festival, Windfall Ecology Festival



Engaged and educated residents are inspired to action

Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre



- Received the 2015 Wood Design Award from Ontario Wood Works
- Education room for delivery of core and partnership education programs for all
- Accessible facility



Learning about nature is no substitute for learning in nature

Enhancement and Rehabilitation



- 94,637 trees and shrubs planted through public and private land programs
 - 39 hectares of new forest
- Residential Back Yard Tree Program partnership with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests continues to deliver with 60% increase in participation
- Funding support for community planting events hosted by local municipalities increasing
 - 8,635 trees and shrubs created 2.5 hectares of new forest



Healthy trees healthy communities

Environmental Land Protection and Preservation



- Nature Conservancy of Canada partnership achieves protection of 21 hectares through acquisition in King Township
- In partnership with TRCA provided 50% of costs to acquire 44.2 hectare parcel to be managed as part of the Nashville Conservation Reserve
- 73.9 hectares protected in 2015



1,271 hectares of environmental land protected since 2001

Leadership, Innovation & Knowledge



- Support local municipal Urban Forest Studies
- 2015 Town of Newmarket 294,755 trees:
 - provide 24% canopy cover (8.7% forest cover)
 - remove 40 tonnes of air pollution
 - \$334,533 annual energy savings for residential buildings
- Completed studies with Markham, Vaughan, Aurora and Richmond Hill
- 2016 Northern York municipalities - underway
- Municipal forums to exchange information e.g. invasive species management, municipal Environmental Advisory Committees (EAC's)



Partnerships Achieve Results



Nature Conservancy of Canada

- 476 hectares protected lands since 2001
- Targets protection of six properties over three years

Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust

- 392 hectares conservation lands protected since 2002
- Targets protection of four properties over three years

Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests

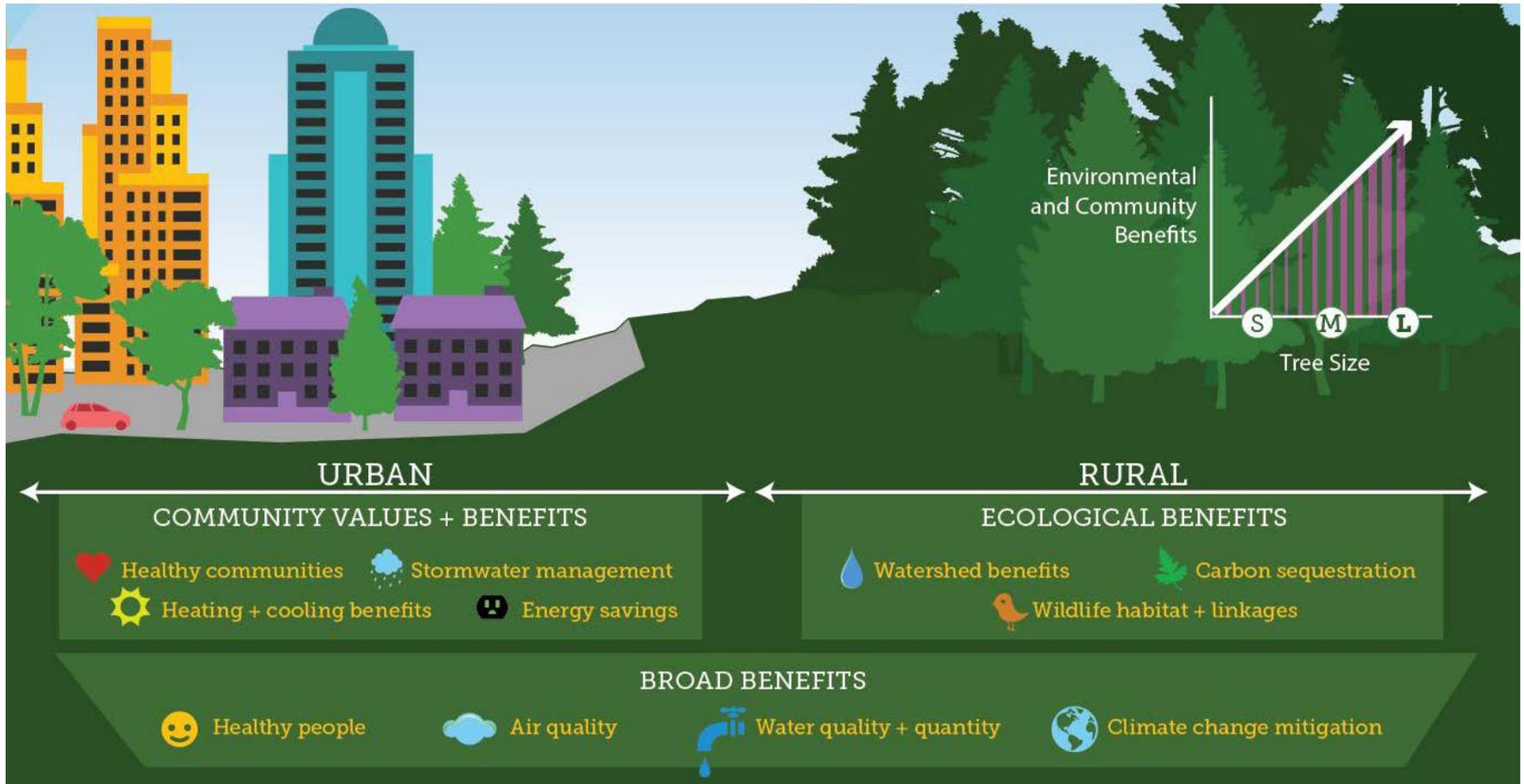
- Annually delivers Emerald Ash Borer and tree care outreach and education to over 3,000 residents
- Examples: backyard tree planting, workshops, in-class programs, and participation at local municipal festivals



Continued support of these agreements
is integral to preserving green space

Strategic Forest Management Plan

Underway to assess forest cover and canopy cover targets



Strategy will address benefits from individual trees as well as forests

Greening Strategy

Working with our local municipal partners



Implement works in all nine local municipalities including:

- Environmental land protection and preservation projects
- Urban Forest studies and Forest management Planning
- Community tree planting events
- Environmental Advisory Committee coordination and support
- Technical Working Groups and Forums



Together we achieve more....

Next Steps

- Continue with successful Greening Strategy partnerships
- Increase promotion of subsidized tree planting programs
- 2016 continue to advance key actions towards increasing forest and canopy cover:
 - continued support for Urban Forest Studies with local municipalities
 - finalize York Region Strategic Forest Management Plan in collaboration with local municipalities and partners
 - complete 2016 forest cover assessment

