

Clause 2 in Report No. 8 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on April 23, 2015.

2

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

Committee of the Whole recommends:

1. Receipt of the presentation by Laura McDowell, Director, Environmental Promotion and Protection, Environmental Services and Ian Buchanan, Manager, Natural Heritage and Forestry Services, Environmental Services.
2. Adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated April 2, 2015 from the Commissioner of Environmental Services:

1. Recommendation

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

2. Purpose

This report provides Council with an update on activities and achievements of the Greening Strategy in 2014, including identifying actions towards increasing the Regions forest cover.

3. Background

Since 2001 the Greening Strategy has worked with residents, local municipalities and stakeholders to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment

Since adoption of the innovative Greening Strategy in 2001, achievements have been reported to Council annually. Refined in 2012, the intent of the strategy is to achieve hands-on action consistent with forward-thinking environmental policies in the Regional Official Plan 2010. Greening projects and other forestry programs are aligned to protect, restore and enhance the natural environment, including

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

Regional trees and forests. These programs have multiple benefits ranging from climate change mitigation to public health improvements.

Forests are key components of the natural environment and a 2012 assessment confirmed forest cover at 22.8 per cent

Environment Canada (How Much Habitat is Enough, 2013) confirmed that forests are critically important, along with wetlands and grasslands, for the maintenance of ecosystem functions and attributes. The Regional Official Plan 2010 recognizes forests as a significant component of the Region's natural systems, which provide a variety of important environmental, social and economic benefits. These benefits include clean air and water, erosion prevention, wildlife habitat, and recreation.

An objective of the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan is to preserve green spaces, and the Regional Greening Strategy is identified as a key delivery mechanism. The Region Official Plan 2010 target for forest cover is 25 per cent by 2031.

Forest cover is defined, in the Regional Official Plan 2010 consistent with the *Municipal Act, 2001*, as the sum of all woodland areas larger than 0.2 hectares, calculated in hectares or percentage of land base, with minimum tree densities (e.g. 1000 trees of any size per hectare through to 250 trees at 20 cm diameter per hectare).

As reported to Council in March 2014, the Region's forest cover was confirmed at 22.8 per cent (40,533 hectares), based on 2012 air photography. Forest cover is assessed at ten year intervals. To reach the 25 per cent target, there must be a net gain of 3,855 hectares of forest over the next 19 years, or 203 hectares (net gain) of forest per year.

4. Analysis and Options

2014 greening achievements contribute to 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 and the presence of green infrastructure, including trees and shrubs. York Region is participating in a Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Eco-health collaborative chaired by the David Suzuki Foundation, including Public Health Units and Conservation Authorities. The principle focus of this partnership involves a review to gain a better understanding of the evidence linking human health benefits (including improved mental health) to green infrastructure. Information was shared at the

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

Eco-health workshop “Realizing the Health Benefits of Green Spaces in a Changing World” in March 2015.

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 many of the 2014 Greening Strategy achievements and community benefits.

Milestones along the path towards 25 per cent forest cover are being advanced through 2015

In March 2014, Council endorsed a path which outlined steps towards achieving the Regional Official Plan 2010 forest cover target of 25 per cent. Actions completed in 2014, and those planned for 2015 and beyond, are described below.

2014 stakeholder workshop reviewed tree planting and integrated monitoring opportunities

A forest cover collaboration workshop held in December 2014 with 35 participating stakeholders achieved a greater understanding of activities and capabilities relating to tree planting, tree protection and monitoring. Feedback received at this workshop identified; the need to increase public awareness of the benefits and values of trees and forests, short term and long term tree planting opportunities, the need to determine barriers to tree planting and mitigation strategies.

Analysis of opportunities and innovative tools to increase forest cover are key consideration in developing the implementation plan

In 2014, staff conducted a preliminary landscape scale review of land use designations, which may have potential for reforestation. Ownership is key to understanding the opportunities for achieving increases in forest cover as indicated in Figure 1 and described below:

Private land

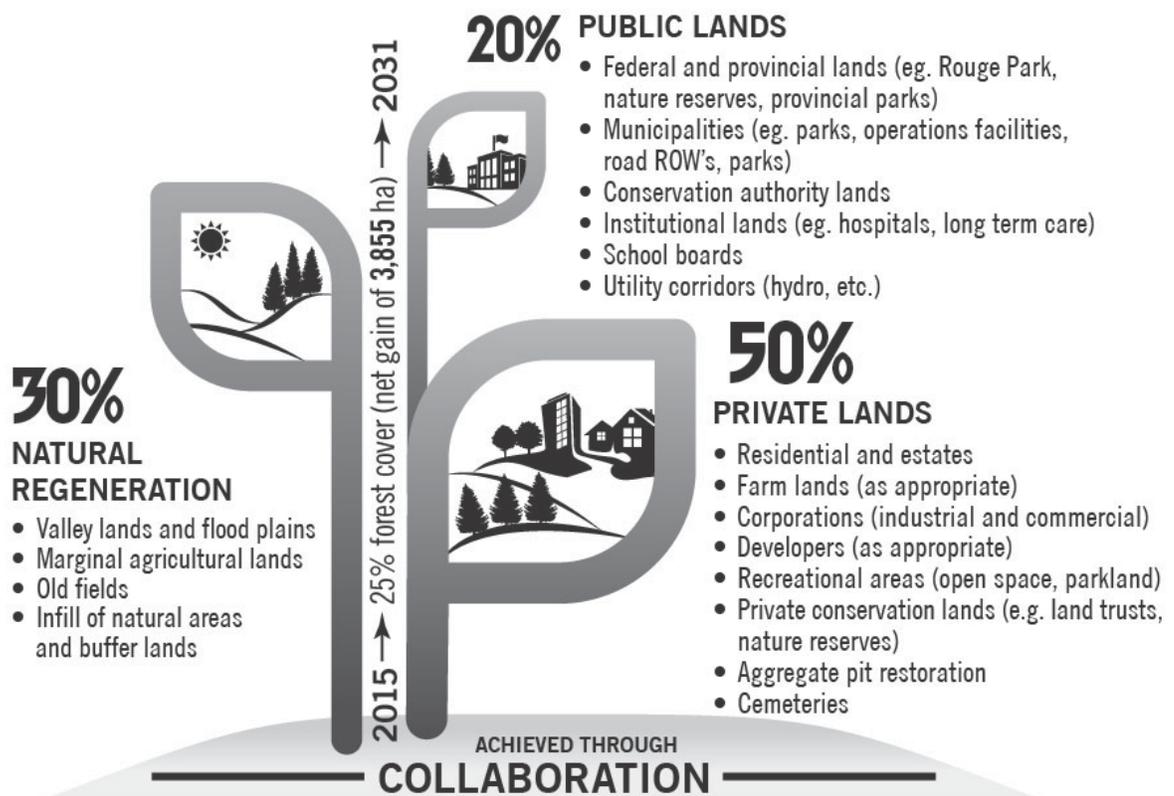
Most lands in York Region are in private ownership and provide the greatest opportunities to increase forest cover e.g. estate residential lots, non-viable farm lands or corporate holdings. Lands held for future development may offer short term (e.g. 5-25 year) ‘interim’ forest habitat opportunities.

Public land

Land holdings with municipalities, Conservation Authorities, Rouge National Urban Park and other public entities, may provide quick start tree planting opportunities. Staff has achieved early success with York Region property naturalization pilot projects (e.g. water and wastewater facilities), partnerships with Conservation Authorities, and Rouge Park projects.

In addition, many areas of non-development land (e.g. valley lands) are succeeding to natural habitats. Tools, such as incentives and subsidies, may also help implementation. Partnerships will be optimized to leverage momentum and action.

Figure 1
Opportunities to Achieve 25 per cent Forest Cover by 2031



Focus in 2015 is on delivering an integrated monitoring strategy, providing input to existing legislation and policy reviews and advancing an implementation plan

Development of an integrated monitoring strategy in 2015 will provide a clear understanding of who is monitoring what, and for what purpose. Staff will develop a partnership to align monitoring activities, establish a Technical Working Group

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

to advance discussions of monitoring approaches (metrics, criteria, timelines etc.) and provide a forum for sharing assessments and data.

Coordinated by Planning and Economic Development, a review of the Growth Plan, Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan is underway with comments due to the Province on May 28, 2015. As approved by Council on March 26, 2015, staff will present a report with recommendations on May 21, 2015. York Region provided preliminary comments to the Province and hosted a public consultation session in 2014. Staff has advocated for forest protection and restoration and will continue to work with the Province as the review moves forward.

In 2015, staff will advance options for a tree and forest protection guideline for new development. Working with planning staff, this will include an assessment of best practices and provide information to improve consistency and implementation of the legislated requirements related to forest protection. Options may include creating a best practices guide consistent with existing development guidelines such as those for wellhead protection and streetscapes, or scoping an opportunity to inform the New Community Guideline.

Confirmation of targets, benchmarks and contributions from the urban forest canopy are essential components of implementation plan

In 2015, an assessment of the forest cover target will be undertaken, and updates will be recommended through review of the Regional Official Plan 2010. This assessment will consider land inventory and ownership, land use designations, growth expectations and the legislative and policy framework in support of sustainable development and agriculture.

In recent years, Urban Forest Studies have provided a greater understanding of functions and services provided by canopy cover in urban areas. Urban Forest Studies are completed based on a standardized methodology which uses a suite of tools (e.g. urban tree canopy spatial analysis) combined with a modelling application (i-Tree Eco model), developed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

Urban forest canopy cover is typically defined as the area (calculated in hectares or land base percentage) of ground covered by tree leaf canopy as seen from above. Science is confirming that canopy cover is an effective high level indicator for quantifying ecosystem services, economic benefits, health and aesthetic values that trees provide in urban communities. Monitoring canopy cover is a best practice used by many urban municipalities across Ontario.

In consultation with Planning and Geomatics staff, a review of the suitability of a forest cover target in rural landscapes complemented by canopy cover targets for

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

defined urban areas will be completed. The implementation plan will provide clear definitions, reconfirm targets and prioritize actions and options for achieving an increase in forest cover.

Monitoring urban forest canopy cover will assist with tracking damage to trees including ice storm and invasive insect impacts

Tracking canopy cover will provide a better measure of impacts to trees associated with occurrences such as ice storms and invasive insect infestations. The 2013 ice storm caused significant damage to trees and forests, and the ongoing loss of ash trees due to the emerald ash borer infestation is resulting in millions of dollars of impact to trees, particularly in urban areas. However, the overall impact to forest area and forest cover is minimal, because even with significant single tree loss, the overall area of forest persists. Losses to urban canopy cover (individual trees and their leaf crowns), however, are significant. Measuring canopy cover and monitoring change over time is at a much finer resolution or scale and better suited to track impacts to trees in urban areas.

Local municipal Urban Forest Studies confirm trees remove significant amounts of air pollutants with positive health benefits

Trees contribute to our overall environmental health through oxygen production, providing clean air and water, reduced risk of flooding and heat reduction. The Town of Aurora's Urban Forest Study was completed in 2014. The Town of Aurora's tree canopy cover is 28 per cent (1.95 million trees), and those trees remove up to 93 tonnes of air pollution annually and provide \$475,000 of annual energy savings to residents.

Results from Urban Forest Studies, completed in partnership with York Region for the Cities of Markham and Vaughan, and the Towns of Aurora and Richmond Hill, estimate that 923 tonnes of pollutants are removed from the air each year by the urban forest. Trees improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and binding particulates. These trees also save residents \$5.5 million in energy costs from heating in winter and cooling in summer, provide cooler communities, increase property values and provide recreational opportunities. Discussions are underway with the Town of Newmarket to advance their study in 2015. This information will be used to inform the development of area municipal Urban Forest Management Plans.

2014 was a successful year for greening work with all targets met or exceeded

A broad range of achievements were realized in 2014. All 2014 Greening Strategy targets were met or exceeded through all partnership programs. Action areas of the Strategy and their annual achievement targets are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

Greening Strategy action areas, goals and annual targets

Action Area	Goal	Target (minimums)	2014 Achievement
Stewardship and education	environmental education and landowner outreach	100 outreach events reach 50,000 residents ¹	153 outreach events over 50,000 residents reached
Enhancement and rehabilitation	tree, shrub, wetland and prairie planting	plant 70,000 trees and shrubs	91,689 trees and shrubs planted
Environmental land protection and preservation	acquisition of key conservation lands	protect 65 hectares of land	88 hectares protected
Leadership, innovation and knowledge	facilitate research, collaboration, science and technology transfer	host 4 regional forums present at 2 science /technology forums	8 forums hosted 4 presentations at science and technology forums

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

The following is a summary of achievement highlights (see *Attachment 1* for details).

Through partnerships more than 91,000 trees and shrubs were planted, contributing to 32.7 hectares of new forest

In 2014, 91,689 trees and shrubs were planted through a variety of Greening Strategy initiatives, and \$289,017 in funds was leveraged through partnerships. Planting efforts contributed to landscapes including the Regional Greenlands system as shown in Attachment 2. This planting contributed to 32.7 hectares of new forest cover. The following are key program achievements which contributed to urban forests and restored natural areas:

- Large-scale private land reforestation in partnership with Conservation Authorities (54,389 trees and shrubs, 25 hectares of new forest)

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

- Adopt-a-Stream Crossing program delivered 20 events in seven municipalities with 190 volunteers, planting more than 1,010 trees and shrubs along streams within Regional road right of ways
- York Regional Forest tree planting in the Bendor and Graves Tract (Town of East Gwillimbury), Happy Valley Tract (Township of King), and North and Davis Drive Tracts (Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville), totalled 15,925 trees and shrubs
- Backyard Tree Planting Program for urban residential properties delivered in partnership with Local Enhancement and Appreciation for Forests (LEAF) across all nine local municipalities (390 trees and shrubs)
- Collaboration with local municipalities providing tree seedlings to promote the Greening Strategy during Earth Week (3,075 trees)
- Support for outreach and education events such as the Children's Water Festival, Forests Ontario community event, forest festivals (3,767 trees)
- York Region property naturalization (210 trees) and street tree planting (3,113 trees)
- Greening support for community planting events hosted by municipalities or partners (9,810 trees and shrubs)

88 hectares of environmental land protected on three sites on the Oak Ridges Moraine, with a combined land value of \$22 million

Three sites, two in the Township of King and one in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville totalling 88 hectares of land (\$22 million appraised value) were protected through donation and conservation easements (Table 2). The following describes characteristics of each property:

- Supported through York Region's partnership agreement, the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust has been working with the Jackman family since 2010 to protect these lands through a Conservation Easement. The lands consist of 77 hectares (two parcels) located in the Humber River watershed on the Oak Ridges Moraine in the Township of King.
- The Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust also facilitated a donation of land (11 hectares) in Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The property is forested with rolling terrain on the Oak Ridges Moraine within the Regional Greenlands System.

Table 2
Properties Secured in 2014

Property	Municipality	Size ha	York Region Contribution	Property Value
Jackman	King	39	\$20,000*	\$9,712,000
Jackman	King	38	\$20,000*	\$12,284,000
Private donation	Whitchurch- Stouffville	11	\$10,000*	\$72,875
Total		88	\$50,000*	\$22,068,875

*The Region has a land protection and preservation agreement with the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust with an annual contribution of \$50,000 in accordance with a Council approved three year partnership agreement (2013 to 2016).

The focus of environmental land protection and preservation is primarily on support for partners already active in protecting conservation lands. Since adoption of the Strategy in 2001, 1,197 hectares of environmental land has been protected. Lands are protected based on Council endorsed criteria, with a priority on lands with opportunities to increase forest cover consistent with Corporate Strategic Plan objectives and the Regional Official Plan 2010 forest cover target of 25 per cent by 2031.

18,000 residents engaged in 153 events to increase awareness of the natural environment

A total of 153 environmental outreach events engaged 18,000 residents, and participation in nearly all program areas increased. Forest education and stewardship programs delivered by York Region continue to show an upward trend in participation. These programs included delivery of 52 guided hikes, 17 public forest events, two seasonal forest festivals, nine Emerald Ash Borer events, regional education competitions for students, and 20 volunteer environmental action events. Special celebrations such as Earth Week, National Forest Week, National Tree Day and the recognition event for Drysdale Woods drew 255 participants. Collaboration on more than 47 partner-led environmental events (including the Windfall Ecology Festival) reached more than 14,905 people.

Increased participation can be attributed to: focusing on target audiences, increasing use of social media, evaluating existing delivery to confirm alignment with program goals, and offering flexible, adaptable and stimulating programs.

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre and accessible trail offer new opportunities for environmental education and partnerships at the York Regional Forest

Construction of the Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship and Education Centre at the York Regional Forest Hollidge Tract began in 2014 and will be completed in spring 2015. The new centre, just north of Ballantrae in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, will highlight sustainability and demonstrate technologies to reduce energy and water consumption and how to reduce our overall environmental footprint. The building is designed to target the internationally recognized Living Building Challenge certification and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum requirements. The classroom in the facility will contribute to the growing success of the Greening Strategy environmental education and outreach programs (e.g. Nature's Classroom). Staff are evaluating suitable options for refinements to program delivery with an emphasis on new partnerships with Conservation Authorities, school boards, and community groups.

In addition, construction was completed on a second fully accessible trail in the York Regional Forest. A 1.7 kilometre accessible trail loop was constructed and opened in fall 2014, in the North Tract in the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

[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

Through partnerships, the Greening Strategy leverages 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 ratios vary with each project and often exceed this ratio through individual partnerships. Greening Strategy programs and funds are reviewed annually to ensure alignment with Regional objectives. In 2014, \$1.7 million was allocated to deliver the Greening Strategy, including land protection and preservation.

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements

Following the ice storm (winter 2013/14) emergency actions and cleanup, Environmental Services has made a \$469,822 submission as part of the Region's request for provincial ice storm relief funding.

6. Local Municipal Impact

Local municipalities are important partners in the Greening Strategy and its delivery. They 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 staff are active on all Greening Strategy working groups, and also sit on the Land Securement Working Group, Invasive Species Working Group and Urban Forest Forum, which provide an opportunity for regular communication and engagement.

All nine local municipalities have benefited directly from the Greening Strategy and have a strong history of involvement in environmental projects and programs. The Greening Strategy clarifies Regional interest, and provides local municipalities and residents with opportunities to enhance the natural environment, which contributes to increases in forest and urban canopy cover.

7. Conclusion

For more than a decade, York Region has been recognized for its innovative leadership in the development and implementation of the Greening Strategy. The Strategy has proven to be an effective and successful delivery mechanism, achieving significant results toward a sustainable natural environment. Success continues to be demonstrated through increased participation and delivery in all program areas. Residents are provided with opportunities to engage in environmental education and environmental 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, 2015-2019 Strategic Plan and Vision 2051.

2014 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.

April 2, 2015

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request

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

Continued collaboration to achieve 25% FOREST COVER

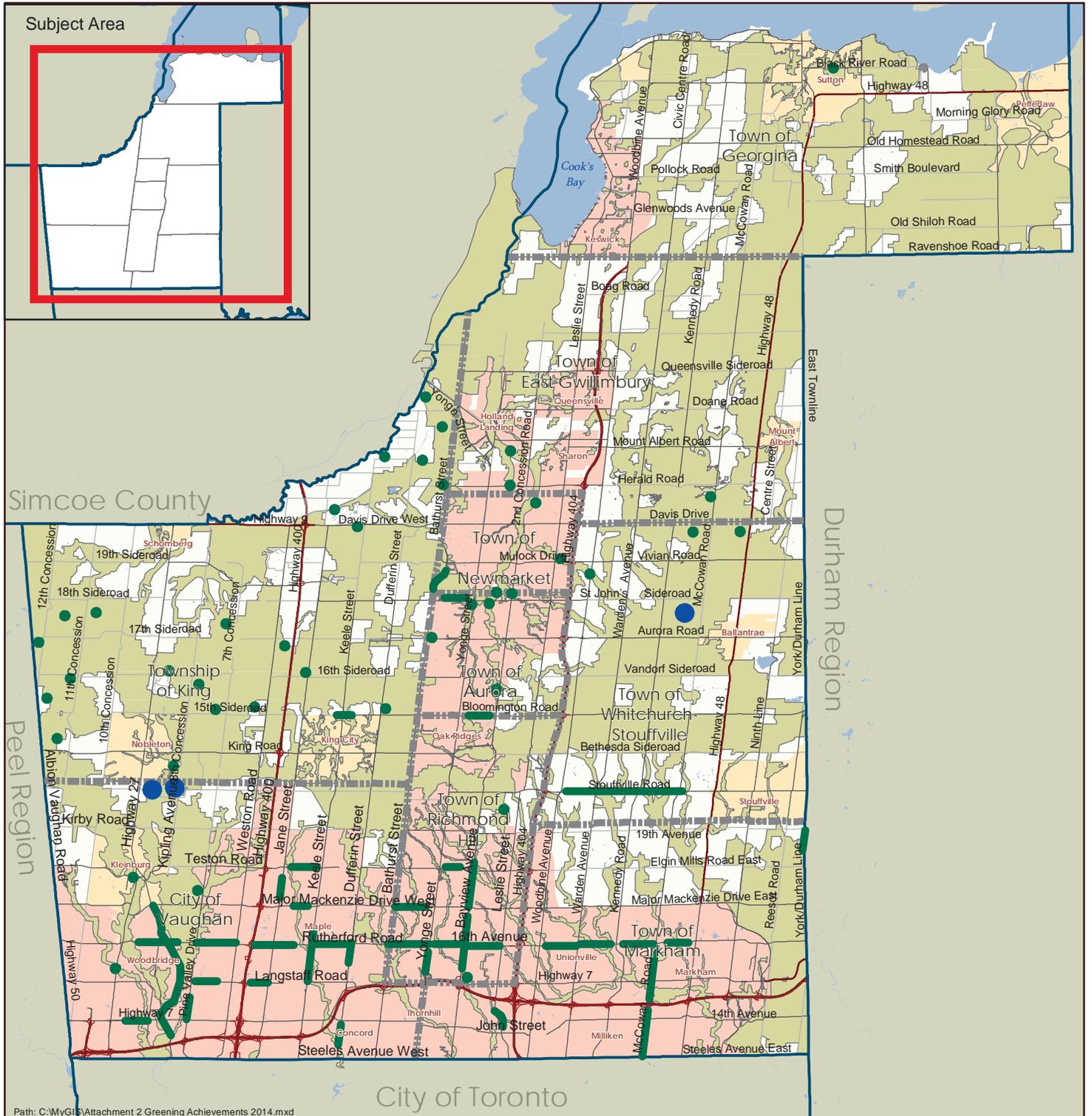


Investing in PEOPLE AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

GREENING STRATEGY ACHIEVEMENTS 2014

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.

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
Environmental Services Department
Administrative Centre - 1st Floor
17250 Yonge Street
Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1
1-877-464-9675 ext. 73000
www.york.ca/forestry



Path: C:\MyGIS\Attachment 2 Greening Achievements 2014.mxd

Locations for tree planting and lands protected in 2014

2014 Greening Strategy Achievements. April 16, 2015

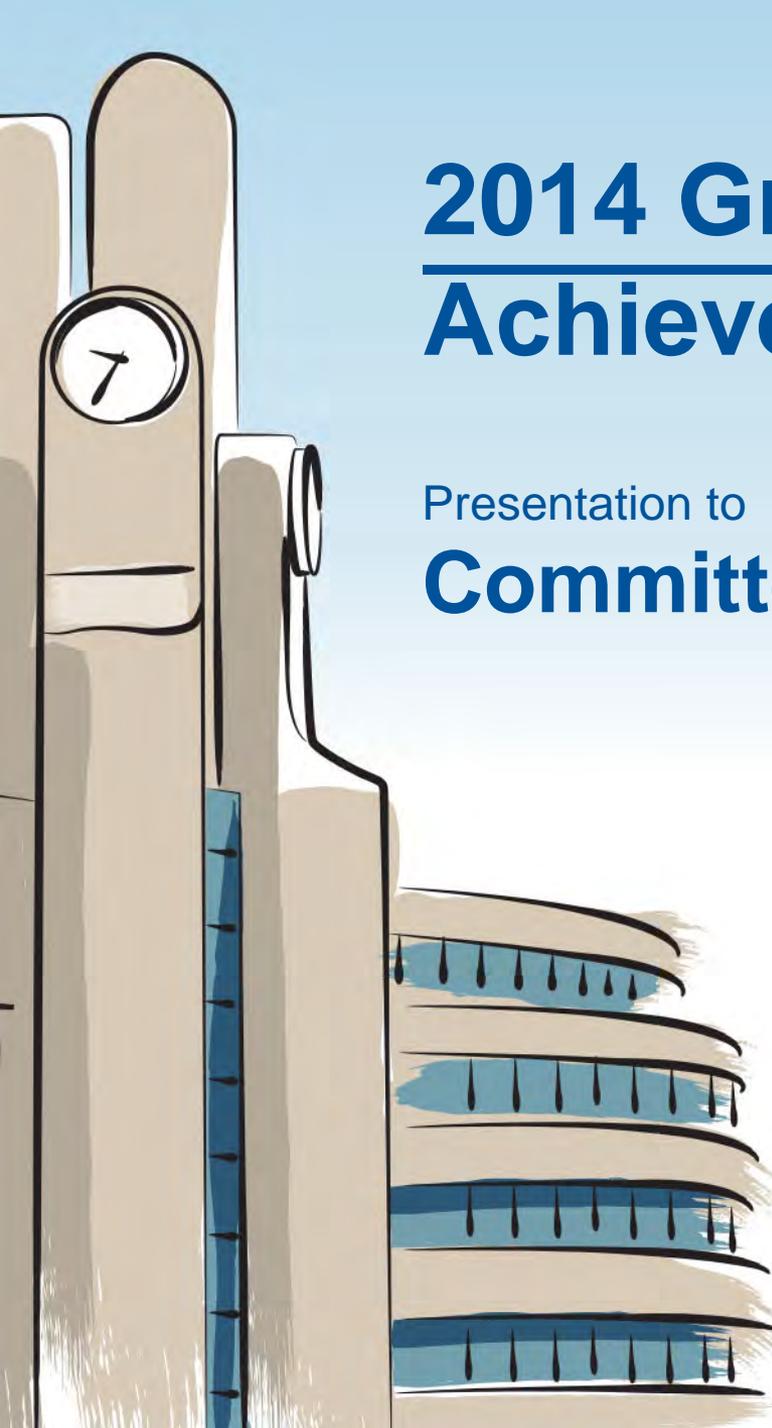


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Legend

- Urban Area
- Greenlands System
- Tree planting programs
- Street Tree planting
- Lands Protected

A stylized illustration on the left side of the slide. It features a clock tower with a circular clock face showing the number 7. Below the tower is a building facade with several horizontal rows of windows, each row containing small, dark, teardrop-shaped elements. The illustration is rendered in shades of tan, brown, and blue.

2014 Greening Strategy

Achievements

Presentation to

Committee of the Whole

Laura McDowell

Director Environmental Promotion and Protection

Ian Buchanan

Manager Natural Heritage and Forestry

April 16, 2015



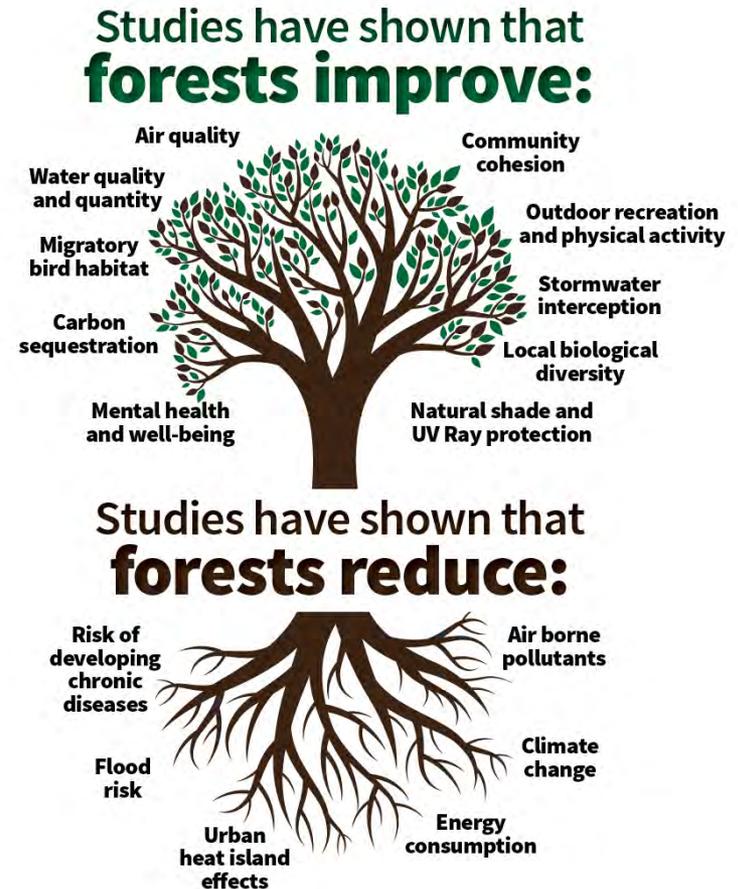
Agenda

- Benefits of *Green Infrastructure*
- Moving towards 25 % forest cover by 2031
- Forest cover and urban canopy opportunities
- 2014 Greening achievements – Action Areas
- Working with local municipal partners
- Next steps



Achievements contribute to healthy people and sustainable communities

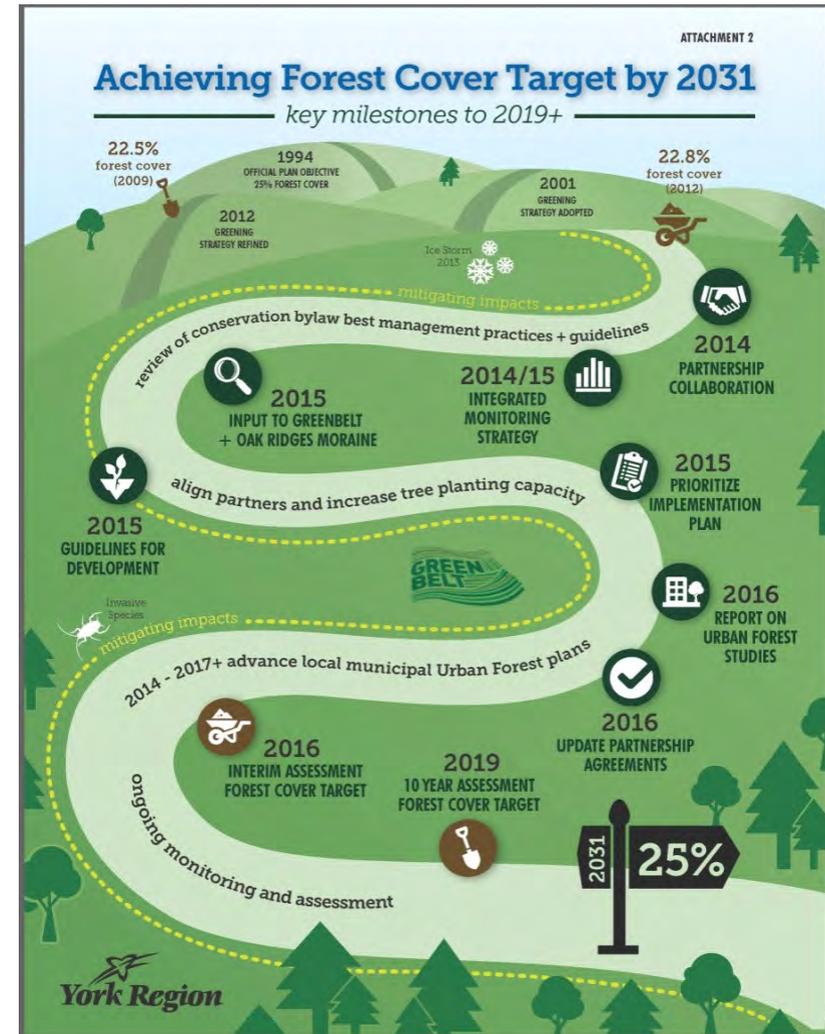
- Science confirms link between human health and green infrastructure i.e. trees and shrubs
- EcoHealth Ontario partnership with Suzuki Foundation, Conservation Authorities and Public Health Units
- March 24th collaborative workshop shares research findings and current information
- More green means less; respiratory disease, obesity, chronic illness...



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

Moving towards 25 % forest cover by 2031

- Regional Official Plan Policy – forest cover target of 25% by 2031
- 2012 assessment confirmed forest cover at 22.8% (40,533 hectares)
- to reach 25% requires a net gain of 3,855 hectares of forest over 19 years or 204 hectares of forest each year
- Greening programs and partnerships plant 25-50 hectares per year – need to narrow the gap
- 2014 - Council report with actions towards achieving 25% forest cover



Key actions drive towards achieving the target

Forest cover - opportunities



Private Land



e.g. estate residential, farmland buffers, corporations, developers



Natural Regeneration



e.g. valleylands, old fields marginal farmlands



Public & Institutional Land



e.g. Rouge Park, conservation areas, Regional properties, utility corridors



Tools



e.g. GIS, modelling, inventory, monitoring, data



Hall Tract 2009, 2011, 2014



Forest Actions Contribute to Healthy Green Infrastructure



Forest cover and urban canopy cover - finding the balance -

- Urban Forest Studies with local municipalities - capture functions and services provided by tree canopy cover
- Canopy cover is an effective indicator for quantifying ecosystem services, economic benefits, and values of trees for communities
- Tracking canopy cover is a better measure of assessing impacts due to ice storms and invasive species (Emerald Ash Borer)
- Investigate a combination of forest cover targets in rural landscapes complemented by canopy cover targets for urban areas

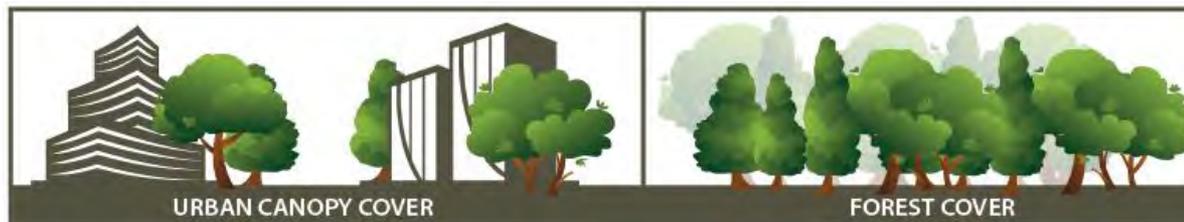


Need to see the forest...and the trees

Forest cover and urban canopy cover

Forest cover - sum of all woodland areas greater than 0.2 hectares (calculated in hectares or land base percentage)

Canopy cover - the area of ground covered by tree leaf canopy as seen from overhead (calculated in hectares or land base percentage)



Greening Strategy

- Adopted in 2001 as a response to 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

Stewardship and Education



- Festivals, hikes, community planting events, student programs, 2015 forest calendar...and more
- 18,000 residents engaged through 153 outreach events
- Participation in nearly all areas increased
- Monthly forest hikes attract 836 residents
- Special environmental events included:
 - York Regional Forest Festivals (spring/fall)
 - Splash Festival, National Forest Week
 - Drysdale Woods celebration
 - participation in Earth Week, Childrens Water Festival, Windfall Ecology

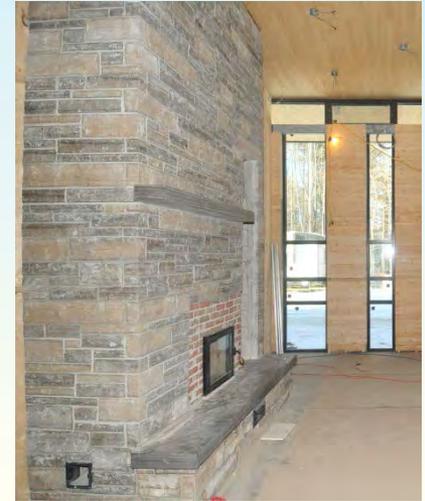


Engaged and educated residents are inspired to action

Bill Fisch Forest Stewardship & Education Centre



- Designed to target both LEED platinum and Living Building Challenge (LBC) standards
- Natures Classroom for delivery of core and partnership education programs
- Fully accessible facility including washrooms for public forest events



Learning about nature is no substitute for learning in nature

Enhancement and Rehabilitation



- 91,689 trees and shrubs planted through public and private land programs (32.7 ha forest + 10,000's other trees planted)
- Reforestation partnership with Conservation Authorities top performing program (54,389 trees with 25 ha of new forest)
- Funding support for community planting events hosted by area municipalities increasing
- Both York Region school boards engaged with green school grounds program partnership with Evergreen Foundation



Healthy trees healthy communities

Environmental Land Protection and Preservation



- Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust partnership
2 properties with Conservation Easements
77 hectares in King Township
- 11 ha donation of forested land in
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville
- 2014 land value protected is \$22M
- Spring 2014 agricultural land protection
forum hosted with Ontario Farmland Trust
- Since 2001 a total of 1,197 hectares of land
has been protected - \$89M land value

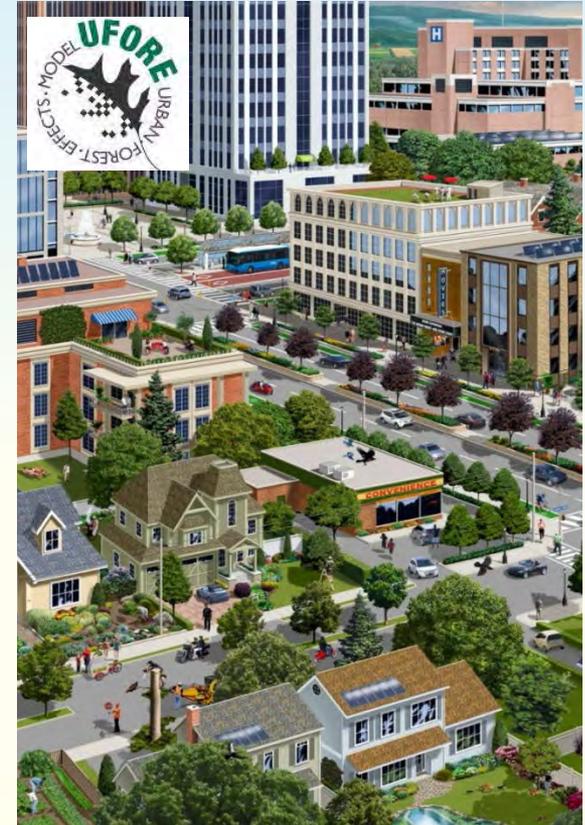


2015-2019 Strategic Plan Objective - protecting green spaces

Leadership, Innovation & Knowledge



- Support local municipal Urban Forest Studies
- 2014 Town of Aurora 1,950,000 trees:
 - provide 28% canopy cover (18% forest cover)
 - remove 93 tonnes of air pollution
 - save residents \$475,000 in energy costs
- Completed studies with Cities of Markham and Vaughan, Town of Richmond Hill
- 2015 Town of Newmarket - discussions underway
- Municipal forums to exchange information e.g. invasive species management, municipal Environmental Advisory Committees (EAC's)



Urban forests in York Region's southern municipalities annually remove more than 923 tonnes of air pollution

Greening Strategy - working with our local municipal partners

We implement works across each action areas in all 9 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
- Confirm forest cover and canopy cover definitions and targets
- Work with Planning staff to review alignment with Official Plan
- Establish a Technical Working Group (local municipalities, NGO's and Conservation Authorities) to advance collaboration
- 2015 continue to advance key actions towards increasing forest and canopy cover:
 - Integrated monitoring plan – review alignment and efficiencies with Conservation Authorities
 - Input to Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine legislation enhance forest protection and restoration objectives
 - Guidelines for development – tree and forest protection
 - Reforestation Implementation Plan



Questions?