


Greening Strategy

Environmental Land Protection and Preservation Agriculture Land Natural Feature Protection

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YORK REGION FORESTRY
Healthy Trees. Healthy Communities



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Presentation Overview

Purpose:
To share York Region’s history and future with land securement.

- History
- Strategic direction
- Greening Strategy Refinement – what was heard
- Greening Strategy Action Areas
- Environmental Land Protection and Preservation
- Agriculture land natural feature protection
- Achievements
- Next steps



YORK REGION FORESTRY
Healthy Trees. Healthy Communities



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History of the Greening Strategy and Land Securement



- ❑ 1994 York Region Official Plan includes a Greenlands System
- ❑ 2000 York Region Official Plan Report Card identifies the need for more on the ground Greening Actions
- ❑ 2000 York Regional Forest property acquisition proposal to Council
- ❑ 2001 Greenlands Property Securement Strategy adopted - Planning & Development Services and Transportation Services
- ❑ 2001 Greening Strategy adopted
- ❑ 2004 Land Securement Criteria adopted
- ❑ 2012 refined Greening Strategy adopted



Strategic Direction



- ❑ **York Region Official Plan (YROP), 2010**
 - ❑ Sustainable Natural Environment
 - ❑ Healthy Communities
 - ❑ Building Cities and Complete Communities
 - ❑ Agriculture and Rural Areas

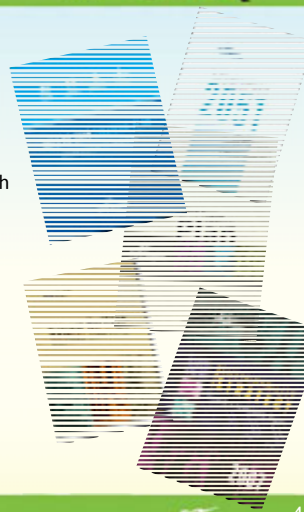
Policy 2.1.14: Creation of a policy to “undertake land securement”, with partners, focused primarily within the Regional Greenlands System.

Policy 2.2.43: The 1994 YROP target “to increase woodland cover to a minimum of 25% of the Region’s total land area” was elevated from an objective to a policy.

- ❑ **2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan: From Vision to Results**

An objective of the Strategic Plan is to preserve green spaces, and the Greening Strategy is identified as a key delivery mechanism.

Investment in green infrastructure pays dividends in many areas & advances multiple Council goals

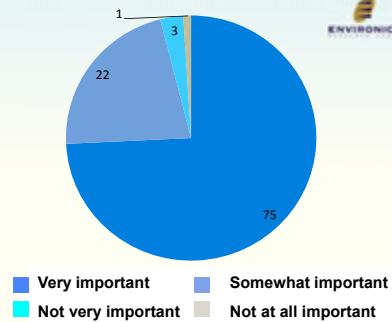


2012 Refinement - what was heard



- Resident responses:
 - important for York Region to invest in protecting and enhancing the natural environment
 - York Region should be involved
- Low knowledge of what York Region is doing for the natural environment
- Tree planting and environmental education are top of mind for action

How important is protecting and enhancing the natural environment to you? Is it...?



75% of residents think protecting the natural environment is “very important”

2012 Refinement - opportunities



New Opportunities:

- Natural heritage trails – connecting people and the environment
- Scope opportunities with agriculture community
 - Ontario Farmland Trust partnership
 - Alternate Land Use Services
- Species at Risk – habitat and populations
- Adjust programs and promotion in response to changing demographics in the Region (age, income, culture, faith etc.)



Greening Strategy Action Areas



3. Enhancement and Rehabilitation

Target: A minimum of 70,000 trees and shrubs planted annually

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| Goal: Enhance and rehabilitate the natural environment on both public and private lands | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private land tree planting 2. Species at Risk *NEW* 3. Public land naturalization 4. Naturalization of regional properties |
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4. Leadership, Innovation & Knowledge

Targets: Co-ordinate 4 information sharing forums and present at 2 conferences annually, submit three funding applications annually to leverage funding

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| Goal: Seek and transfer knowledge, demonstrate leadership and innovation in protection and promotion of natural environment. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technology/Innovation 2. Sharing & dissemination of technical knowledge 3. Sustainable communities 4. Funding opportunities |
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Delivery mechanisms: Partnerships, Agreements and Contracts, Resource and Financial Leveraging, Community Involvement & Engagement, Incentives, and Policy and Legislation

Greening Strategy Action Areas



1. Environmental Land Securement

Target: Pursue a minimum of 6 sites or 65 hectares secured annually

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| Goal: Protect core natural areas and restore linkages | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural Environment Land Securement 2. Natural Heritage Trail Linkages *NEW* 3. Agricultural Land natural feature protection *NEW* |
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2. Stewardship & Education

Targets: Annually coordinate 60, support 25 and actively participate in 15 partner-led events, outreach to 50,000 people annually through programs and communications

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| Goal: Educate residents about the value of green infrastructure, provide opportunities to discover connections with nature, and inspire action | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education programming 2. Outreach events 3. Public engagement through marketing |
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Delivery mechanisms: Partnerships, Agreements and Contracts, Resource and Financial Leveraging, Community Involvement & Engagement, Incentives, and Policy and Legislation

Environmental Land Protection and Preservation



	2013	2014	2015	2016
ENVIRONMENTAL LAND SECUREMENT				
Natural Environment Land Securement	Develop and seek approval of new and existing programs under new three-year agreement with Nature Conservancy of Canada and Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust		Evaluate new and existing agreements and renew for 2016	
	Scope and evaluate new partnerships			
	Review securement strategy and criteria for consistency with current policy and legislation and revise accordingly			
Target: Pursue a minimum of four secured sites or 60 hectares annually				
Natural Heritage trail Linkages (NEW)	Participate in Strategic Planning exercise with York Region Long Range Planning			
	Review securement strategy and criteria for compatibility and revise accordingly			
	Scope opportunities and investigate delivery options including new partnership(s) e.g. Oak Ridges Trail Association, Lake Trail Initiatives, Pedestrian and Cycling Program		Implement partnership(s) and evaluate	
	Implement one pilot project to support Regional natural trail linkages and Active Transportation		Evaluate and implement one pilot project	
Agricultural land natural feature protection (NEW)	Review securement strategy and criteria for compatibility and revise accordingly			
	Scope opportunities and investigate delivery options including new partnership(s) e.g. Ontario Farmland Trust		Implement partnership(s) and evaluate	
	Co-host an Ontario Farmland Trust opportunities forum	Implement one pilot project with Ontario Farmland Trust	Evaluate pilot project and proceed accordingly	
TARGET: PURSUE A MINIMUM OF SIX SITES OR 65 HECTARES SECURED ANNUALLY				

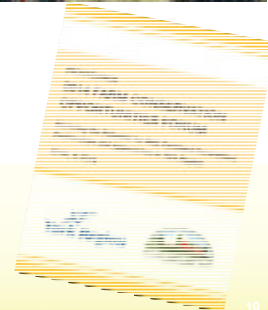


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Environmental Land Protection and Preservation



- Successful long term partnerships with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (61% of achievements through these partnerships)
- Since 2001 a total of 1,193 hectares of land has been protected - \$89M land value
- 318 hectares added to the York Regional Forest
- Spring 2014 agricultural land protection forum hosted with Ontario Farmland Trust



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Next Steps



- Continue partnership agreements
- Identify opportunities for agriculture land natural area protection
- Continue to share information on Agriculture land protection and preservation
- In partnership with Ontario Farmland Trust Finalize and release a case studies report on new approaches and innovative partnership for community led farmland conservation



Questions?



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