

SRPRS.20.063 - Attachment 2 - Environment Strategy Phase 1 Progress Tracker (2019)

Focus Area	Sub-Focus Area	ACTION	Timeline	Time Frame					Project Status			Milestone Achievements (2019)
				2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Ongoing Action ↻	Initiated/ Underway ↺	Complete ☑	
Air	Sustainable Energy	E1	Investigate the opportunities and feasibility of implementing district heating or cooling systems in the Secondary Plan areas, in conjunction with the City-wide Community Energy Plan identified in action E2.					✓		↺		This action is underway concurrently with E2. A white paper has been completed for Richmond Hill Centre to establish the feasibility of and promote the implementation of District Energy in this area.
Air	Sustainable Energy	E2	Initiate a City-wide Community Energy Plan based on the recommendations of the Urban Master Environmental Servicing Plan (Urban MESP) and in keeping with the City's commitments under the Partners for Climate Protection program (Federation of Canadian Municipalities).					✓		↺		Development of a City-wide Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP) was initiated, and the Resilient Richmond Hill engagement campaign was launched to encourage participation from the public and stakeholders. A series of consultation activities was launched at a kick-off event, attended by 250 people at the RHCPA, which included a film-screening, filmmaker Q&A, and information/feedback booths.
Air	Sustainable Energy	E3	Develop a Community Energy Plan for the Richmond Hill Centre.					✓		↺		See update provided under E1.
Air	Sustainable Energy	E4	Develop and implement an Energy Conservation and Demand Management Plan (CDM) for City facilities, updated every five years. Report energy consumption and GHG emissions annually.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻ (Implementation)		☑ (Plan)	The City's Corporate Energy Plan was updated and approved by Council in 2019. Implementation of the 2019-2023 Plan is underway. Projects initiated in 2019 include the recommissioning of 5 arenas and 1 community centre and several interior lighting retrofits to LED. Wireless energy sub meters were installed at 5 arenas to monitor and reduce the energy use of refrigeration systems. In addition, staff are providing monthly energy consumption reports to facility operators. Richmond Hill once again received the Living City Energy Efficiency Leadership Award (Gold) from the Mayors' Megawatt Challenge Program for surpassing the energy efficiency target for its City hall.
Air	Sustainable Energy	E5	Report corporate (and community) greenhouse gas emissions in partnership with the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) every five years in conjunction with CDM reporting.	✓	✓						☑ (Reporting)	As part of CEEP development, a community GHG emissions inventory was completed in 2019. A corporate GHG emissions inventory will be completed in 2020.
Air	Sustainable Energy	E7	Actively research, promote, and pilot sustainable energy opportunities through demonstration projects and technological innovations.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			In 2019, LED conversion of 1,000 in-scope park and parking lot lights was substantially completed, in addition to 11,400 in-scope streetlights in 2018, together achieving a cost savings of \$650,000 annually. Additional pilot projects (liquid pool cover, automated pool makeup water system) were completed and findings were analyzed in 2019.
Air	Sustainable Transportation	PCMP	Implementation of PCMP and prep work for future update. (Implement the Pedestrian System and Cycling Network. Implementation of the pedestrian and cycling network is a critical step toward reaching the goals and objectives of the Strategy; direction for this action has been provide by the PCMP, and hence to avoid duplication has not been set forward as an independent action of this Strategy).	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Key sections of the Lake to Lake route from Highway 7 to Major Mackenzie Drive have been implemented to date. The Lake to Lake route from Major Mackenzie Drive to Elgin Mills Road is in the design stage and will be implemented in the future. An update to the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) is currently on hold pending updates to population and employment projections from the Province and York Region. The TMP will identify a preferred Active Transportation network to be implemented to support future growth.
Air	Sustainable Transportation	T1	Advocate to the Region and Province for public transit as a primary mode of transportation available to residents and commuters.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻	↺		Richmond Hill continues to advocate for public transit, particularly the delivery of the Yonge Subway Extension (YSE), with all levels of government. In 2019, these efforts continued through the development of briefing materials and key messaging, as well as meetings and discussions with public agencies. In 2019, the Province confirmed commitment to construction of the YSE and announced an expected completion timeframe of 2029-2030. Construction of the Bus Rapid Transit on Yonge Street through Richmond Hill also continued in 2019 and is expected to be complete in December 2020.
Air	Sustainable Transportation	T3	Develop and/or update pedestrian and cycling facility design standards as needed to provide for convenient and safe active transportation	✓	✓						☑	Standards completed in 2016 to promote objectives such as appropriate coverage that complements the road network, facility types that appeal to a wide range of users, and equitable and convenient access to the pedestrian and cycling network.
Air	Sustainable Transportation	T4	Implement pedestrian and cycling facility design standards through the planning approval process.		✓	✓	✓	✓		↺		Standards and active transportation facilities continue to be considered on an application by application basis. In 2019, land for a linear park, that will facilitate a multiuse path, has been conveyed to the City.

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Air	Sustainable Transportation	T6	Continue to provide education and outreach to promote and encourage active and healthy transportation options.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Implementation of education and outreach programs continued (e.g. Smart Commute workplace program events and promotion, Bike Valet program continued thorough partnership with Blue Dot Richmond Hill volunteers).
Air	Sustainable Transportation	T7	Actively research, promote, and pilot sustainable and active transportation opportunities through demonstration projects/programs and technological innovations.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			EV charge stations continue to be available to the public free of charge and are identified on an online community network to promote and support electric vehicle usage. The City is exploring opportunities with the Region and other municipalities on the Ministry of Transportation's E-Scooter Pilot Project. In addition, Car-Share, a membership-based on-demand car rental service, has been made available at the newly constructed residential development on at Yonge Street and 16th Avenue. The City continues to monitor and assess traffic data, including pedestrian and cyclist data. In particular, pedestrian and cyclist usage data was collected at key locations along the Lake to Lake route in 2019.
Water	Watershed Management	WM3	Pursue a variety of funding strategies and partnerships to preserve municipal resources for implementation of water resources stream and river rehabilitation projects.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Continued annual monitoring of reserve funds, available grants, and opportunities for funding partnerships. In 2019, FCM funding was secured for the Environmental Assessment (EA) phase of a combined stormwater management pond rehabilitation and valleyland restoration project (Pond 16-4).
Water	Watershed Management	WM4	Develop and implement a Watercourse (Valleyland) Restoration Plan to address priority areas of erosion, restoration and required capital work throughout the valleyland system.	Short Term	✓	✓						☑ (Valleyland Plan)	Valleyland Prioritization Study/Plan completed in 2015 and implementation underway. Projects under this action are funded through the Stormwater 10 Year Capital Plan; as such the action is considered complete. Implementation of the Plan is tracked under SWM3, as both SWM facilities and Valleyland projects are prioritized through the same Plan.
Water	Watershed Management	WM5	Continue to work with existing partners on stream restoration projects and seek additional new partners for future projects through the Community Stewardship Program.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Existing partnerships continued in 2019. The Valleyland Study/Plan was used to prioritize new restoration project locations.
Water	Surface & Stormwater Quantity & Quality	SWM2	Implement Stormwater Management Rate Program.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			A stormwater rate update study was conducted in 2019 which resulted in the development of a more equitable and sustainable stormwater rate formula.
Water	Surface & Stormwater Quantity & Quality	SWM3	Implement Richmond Hill's Stormwater Management 10 Year Capital Plan to rehabilitate existing stormwater facilities; re-prioritize needs and re-establish the 10 Year Plan as required.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Continued implementation of SWM 10 Year Capital Plan. Projects completed: Elgin Mills Greenway; South Richvale greenway (Phase 1). Projects underway: Mill Pond; Twickenham Stormwater Management Pond Rehabilitation and Elgin Mills Valleyland Restoration (EA initiated); Doncrest Valleyland Restoration (feasibility study initiated).
Water	Surface & Stormwater Quantity & Quality	SWM4	Develop and implement a stormwater infrastructure maintenance program.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻ (Implementation)		☑ (Program)	Stormwater Infrastructure Maintenance Program developed in 2016. Sediment removal program continues on an ongoing basis as part of routine maintenance for the City's stormwater infrastructure and in keeping with legislative requirements.
Water	Surface & Stormwater Quantity & Quality	SWM5	Continue to deliver stormwater facility monitoring and inspection program; update program and define roles/responsibilities to ensure Richmond Hill operates stormwater facilities in compliance with Environmental Compliance Approvals.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻		☑ (Program update)	Monitoring Program updated in 2018. Annual monitoring and inspection continues.
Water	Surface & Stormwater Quantity & Quality	SWM6	Update Richmond Hill's Stormwater Management Design Standards.	Short Term					✓		↷		See update provided under LD1.
Water	Surface & Stormwater Quantity & Quality	SWM7	Implement the Lake Wilcox Remediation Strategy; monitor measure and report results of implementation.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Update to the Lake Wilcox Management Plan continued in 2019. Implementation of the Plan's recommendations continues based on the priorities identified.
Water	Surface & Stormwater Quantity & Quality	SWM8	Continue to implement the watercourse monitoring program and reassess the program with assistance from outside agencies.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Implementation of the watercourse monitoring program continues.

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Water	Groundwater Protection, Recharge, & Discharge	GW1	Identify strategic actions in the Credit Valley, Toronto and Regional and Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Plan that, once approved, are the responsibility of Richmond Hill in partnership with York Region and implement accordingly.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		↺		Through the City's process to update the Official Plan, amendments to the Official Plan will be made to ensure conformity with the Source Protection Plan and the Region's Official Plan.
Water	Groundwater Protection, Recharge, & Discharge	GW2	Update the City Salt Management Plan; in addition assess non-salt alternatives for Lake Wilcox area; monitor performance; work with York Region to share and adopt best salt management practices and non-salt alternatives.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻ (Implementation)		☑ (Plan Update)	Update to Salt Management Plan approved by Council in 2016. Salt Vulnerability Assessment initiated in 2019 with completion targeted for 2020. The results of this Assessment, along with recommendations from the Lake Wilcox Management Plan, will inform future updates to the City's Salt Management Plan.
Land	Sustainable Land Development	LD1	Create and/or update City-wide standards and specifications such as the Materials, Standards and Specifications Manual, and sustainable parks, trails, and open space standards, etc. to reflect the policies of the Official Plan.	Short/Medium Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		↺	☑ (Standards for T3, SW1, and E7)	Approval obtained in 2019 to initiate a comprehensive update to the City's Standards and Specifications Manual in 2020. This update will look at the City's Stormwater Management, Erosion and Sediment, Low-impact Development (LID), and Tree Planting and Protection Standards which will address actions SWM6, NE3 and LD5.
Land	Sustainable Land Development	LD2	Develop a monitoring tool for the Sustainability Metrics to help measure performance.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			☑	Uptake monitoring tool developed in 2016. Monitoring underway of site plan and draft plan applications received since March 2014. Sustainability Metrics Monitoring and Incentives update initiated in late 2018 with anticipated completion in 2020.
Land	Sustainable Land Development	LD4	Link the findings of the Urban MESP to valleyland studies and restoration plans.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		↺	☑ (Valleyland)	Development of the Urban Forest Management Plan, informed in part by the findings of the Urban MESP, was substantially completed in 2019, with finalization expected in 2020.
Land	Sustainable Land Development	LD11	Play an advocacy role with the Federal and Provincial Governments along with agencies such as Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) to provide funding for green infrastructure.	Short/Medium Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Advocacy for green infrastructure funding continues. Green infrastructure was included in Richmond Hill's first Corporate Asset Management Plan approved by Council in December 2016.
Land	Sustainable Land Development	LD12	Ensure that flood conveyance remediation projects incorporate ecological improvements to associated valleylands.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Consideration for ecological improvements to associated valleylands continues, where feasible, when undertaking all flood conveyance remediation projects.
Land	Sustainable Land Development	LD14	Support TRCA's existing pilot Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Plan at Lake Wilcox, and investigate working with partners to expand the program to include other Richmond Hill neighbourhoods.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓				☑	Lake Wilcox SNAP is complete. No plans at the moment to continue the SNAP project at this time, as the TRCA has shifted focus to other active SNAP projects within the region.
Land	Natural Environment Management	NE2	Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan to protect, maintain and enhance the urban forest. (Note: this initiative will be of particular importance in the wake of EAB; it could be combined with the restoration planning and implementation efforts for EAB already underway).	Short/Medium Term		✓	✓	✓	✓		↺		Urban Forest Management Plan substantially completed in 2019, with finalization expected in 2020.
Land	Natural Environment Management	NE3	Update standards and specifications to better protect mature tree health and growth, giving consideration to soils standards.	Short Term					✓		↺		See update provided under LD1.
Land	Natural Environment Management	NE6	Develop a biological indicator species monitoring and inventory program that will provide information to assist in the planning and prioritization of restoration projects, the management of invasive species and wildlife, and the maintenance of natural heritage features. Make best use of data provided through developers.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		↺		Biological indicator species monitoring and inventory program developed based on the 2014 Natural Area Inventory (flora fauna/ELC every 10 years). Inventory performed in 2019 for approximately 100 hectares of land acquired since 2014. The data obtained will be used to establish metrics on species of concern and native species in Richmond Hill.
Land	Natural Environment Management	NE7	Develop a single database/application for street trees and open spaces trees for use by multiple departments.	Short Term	✓	✓			✓			☑	Phase 1 of development for the single tree asset database was completed in 2015. Phase 2, a database and GIS mapping tools for tree assets planted through the Community Stewardship and Healthy Yards Programs, was completed in 2019.
Land	Natural Environment Management	NE9	Continue to provide the Community Stewardship Program as a means to undertake restoration activities on City land by strengthening existing partnerships and developing ways to encourage new restoration, enhancement and education partnerships.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			2019 Community Stewardship Program: Planted 12,600 trees and shrubs, over 2,300 volunteers participated, 3 City-led community tree plantings, 77 partner-led events, 5 partner-led workshops, 14 outreach events attended.
Land	Natural Environment Management	NE10	Continue to offer the Healthy Yards Program as a means to improve biodiversity and increase tree cover on private lands.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Continued implementation of the Healthy Yards program (e.g. 3,032 wildflowers, 1,255 trees and shrubs, 287 rain barrels, and 228 composters sold). Partnership funding provided through York Region.

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Land	Invasive Species Management	IS5	Continue to implement the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Strategy.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Woodlot management and maintenance for Beaver Woodland continued in 2019. Woodlot restoration work continues for DDO lands, with Phase 1 completed in 2019 and planning for phase 2 to begin in 2020.
Land	Invasive Species Management	IS6	Continue to promote and implement the use of a diversity of native plant species on City land.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Promotion of the benefits of native plants continues through a variety of sources, including social media, the City's website, and displays at community centres. Continued implementation of the City's Urban Forest Planting Guidelines for street tree replacements and new developments to create a more resilient and diversified urban tree canopy.
Land	Invasive Species Management	IS7	Collaborate and partner with York Region, neighboring municipalities, Conservation Authorities and other crossboundary stakeholders to manage invasive species.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Continued participation in cross-jurisdictional work on invasive species management with York Region and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council.
Land	Invasive Species Management	IS8	Develop Community Education and Outreach programs for invasive species and native plant species.	Ongoing		✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Continued education and promotion of pollinators through participation in the National Wildlife Federation's Mayor's Monarch Pledge, the City's Bee City designation, and the establishment of a 'Butterfly Way' in Richmond Hill in partnership with the David Suzuki Foundation.
Land	Wildlife Management	W2	Re-evaluate existing by-laws that address wildlife feeding.	Short/Medium Term									To be re-evaluated as part of the Parks Use By-law update (timing to be determined).
Land	Wildlife Management	W5	Continue to support and implement the Canada Goose Management Strategy and Beaver Management Policy.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Ongoing Canada Goose/Beaver monitoring and management.
Land	Wildlife Management	W6	Define the City's response to, as well as roles and responsibilities for individual species that significantly impact the City.	Short Term					✓			☑	Wildlife response procedure developed to define roles and responsibilities with respect to specific wildlife in Richmond Hill.
Land	Wildlife Management	W7	Develop education methods to improve the public's understanding of wildlife interactions and the benefits of living in a biodiverse community. Provide this information through various channels (Environment, By-law, Communications)	Ongoing		✓		✓	✓	↻		☑ (Education Program)	Wildlife education program established in 2019. Program implementation and development of support materials to continue in 2020.
Land	Sustainable Urban Agriculture & Local Food	Community Garden	Community Garden policy as per Parks Plan	Short Term	✓	✓	✓					☑	Policy approved in 2017, implementation continues.
Land	Sustainable Urban Agriculture & Local Food	LF5	Evaluate the feasibility of developing an urban food kit as part of the Healthy Yards Program.	Short Term	✓	✓						☑	Edible plants incorporated into Healthy Yards Program in 2015.
Land	Solid Waste Management	SW1	Develop building design criteria requiring new multi-unit residential, IC&I, and mixed-use developments to incorporate source-separated waste collection in building design, and to participate in source-separation programs.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			☑	The City's Waste By-law, which provides Council endorsement for the Waste Development Standards, was updated and approved by Council in 2019. Implementation of the Standards and By-law continues.
Land	Solid Waste Management	SW3	Develop and implement a City sustainable procurement policy.	Short/Medium Term									[This action item, originated from the 2009 Strategic Plan, was assessed during implementation of the 2014 Procurement Review. The action will be revisited during the 5-year Environment Strategy Update.]
Land	Solid Waste Management	SW4	Conduct annual waste audits of municipal facilities greater than 10,000 square meters and implement waste reduction work plans and source separation programs for these facilities.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			2019 waste audit completed and Ministry of Environment waste reduction workplan developed. This audit looked at the break down of single use items found in the waste and recycling streams to help inform a Single Use Item Reduction Strategy to be developed.
Land	Solid Waste Management	SW5	Establish and implement service levels for diversion programs in public areas.	Short/Medium Term	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			☑	2-stream (garbage and recycling) containers were installed in Richmond Hill's downtown core and recycling containers were installed at 200 super mailboxes in 2019.
Land	Solid Waste Management	SW6	Collaborate with York Region and local municipalities to share innovations and achieve region-wide waste reduction and diversion goals.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			In 2019, waste education was provided to staff and tenants of 100+ multi-residential buildings. Waste educational materials (i.e. stickers, posters, etc.) were also developed and distributed to inform residents about proper waste diversion practices. A waste audit for 7 multi-residential buildings was conducted in partnership with York Region. The City also initiated a Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy to be completed in 2021.

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Land	Solid Waste Management	SW7 Actively research, promote, and pilot waste management opportunities through demonstration projects and technological innovations.	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	↻			Electronic waste collection introduced at 2019 Healthy Yards event (14,350+ lbs. collected).
Land	Solid Waste Management	SW10 Develop and implement approaches for three-stream waste separation at large community events, starting with City sponsored events and progressing to private events held at City facilities.	Short Term	✓	✓	✓					☑ (Waste Mgmt. Plan requirement)	The Community Festivals and Events Manual (2017) requires event organizers to prepare a Waste Management Plan and encourages waste diversion & minimization. Provision of 3-stream waste containers (garbage, recycling and organics) continues annually at Ribfest.