


















## SRPI.23.024 – Attachment 1 – 2022 Environment Strategy Progress Tracker

Action ID	Action	Timing	Action Status			2022 Progress Update
			Ongoing	Underway	Complete	
<b>Energy</b>						
1.1	Explore opportunities to implement district energy in line with the City's Community Energy and Emissions Plan and Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↻		Opportunities to promote and/or facilitate district energy continue to be explored as part of Richmond Hill Centre Secondary Plan development.
1.2	Through the policies and implementation of the City's Official Plan, encourage and/or require area-specific community energy plans or reports in strategic growth areas and for major development.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↻		In 2022, Council approved Official Plan Amendment 18.3, which includes policy directions in support of the City's ongoing climate change and sustainable development work. Additional opportunities regarding area-specific energy plan/report requirements are being considered as part of forthcoming Official Plan amendments.
1.3	Adopt a net zero emissions target for municipal buildings by 2050 to align with the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>
1.4	Continue to implement the Corporate Energy Plan for City facilities, and update the Plan every five years. Report facility energy consumption and GHG emissions annually.	Ongoing	↻			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Corporate Energy Plan continued in 2022. Implemented projects include: Recommissioning studies for 5 of the City's arenas, as well as low-emissivity ceilings and over the ice LED lighting installed at Tom Graham and Ed Sackfield Arena.</li> <li>• The City met its mandatory requirement in 2022 to report the annual energy consumption and GHG emissions for its facilities to the Ministry of Energy.</li> <li>• Richmond Hill's Operations Centre was recognized for its energy performance at the Windfall Centre's 2022 Sustainability Awards. This facility, which has remained active throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, achieved a 6% reduction in energy use intensity and an impressive 11% reduction in GHG emissions intensity from 2020 to 2021. Savings can be attributed to proactive equipment maintenance and energy efficiency upgrades, and energy efficiency leadership by staff in the building.</li> </ul>
1.5	Regularly review and report corporate and community GHG emissions every five years to inform future projects that reduce GHG emissions.	Ongoing	↻			Next corporate GHG inventory expected to be conducted in 2025.
1.6	Explore and implement ways to support deep energy retrofits in a range of buildings, such as through Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) or related subsidies.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↻		In 2022, the City began examining funding and partnership opportunities to study the feasibility of programs/approaches that support implementation of deeper building energy retrofits in the community.
1.7	Showcase and pilot projects that reduce GHG emissions through innovative technology and approaches.	Ongoing	↻			The City initiated replacement of its Fuel System, including fuel pumps, vehicle sensors, and Fuel Management System in 2022. Once installed (expected in 2023), the sensors will track fuel use, engine use, and mileage to measure fuel efficiency. This data can help inform vehicle replacement cycles and future opportunities for fuel and GHG reductions.
1.8	Work with partners to educate residents and businesses about how to conserve energy and shift to renewable or alternative energy sources.	Ongoing	↻			In 2022, the City continued to promote its Climate Change Conversation Toolkit to inspire local climate action, including initiation of the City's Climate Champions program to promote use of the Toolkit. The City also continued to encourage local businesses to improve energy and water efficiency by promoting participation in the ClimateWise Business Network's Energy and Water Benchmarking Reporting program.






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<b>Transportation</b>						
2.1	Develop a city-wide Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan and a Parking and TDM Strategy for New Developments.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				Development of the City's Parking and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategy for new developments is underway, with expected completion in 2023.
2.2	Advocate to all levels of government for sustainable travel options, such as the Yonge North Subway Extension, electric vehicles, more bus rapid transit, and micromobility.	Ongoing				In 2022, the City applied for and anticipates receiving grant funding through the Federal Active Transportation Fund for the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge and Recreation Trail project.  In addition, Richmond Hill continues to collaborate with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• all levels of government on delivery of the Yonge North Subway Extension project;</li> <li>• York Region on regionally-led active transportation projects; and</li> <li>• Southern York Region municipalities for continued cross-municipal advocacy efforts related to harmonizing micromobility approaches.</li> </ul>
2.3	Update City standards, policies and plans to ensure walking and cycling considerations are incorporated into more of the City's capital works projects.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				Phase 1 updates to the City's Standards and Specifications Manual were completed in 2022, which included provisions to incorporate greater active transportation considerations at road cross-sections. In addition, active transportation assets (e.g. walking and cycling infrastructure) were incorporated into the City's Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) asset inventory, allowing for streamlined State of Infrastructure (e.g. condition, value, age) data collection that can support future state of good repair active transportation improvements.
2.4	Expand and improve Richmond Hill's active transportation network.	Ongoing				Design was advanced for several major active transportation projects in 2022, including the Lake-to-Lake Cycling Route and Walk Trail, David Dunlap Observatory Rail Crossing, and Hwy 404 flyover project. In addition, through the 2022 Sidewalk Program, the City monitored, identified needs and installed sidewalk linkages throughout Richmond Hill to enhance pedestrian connections and improve walkability of public right-of-ways.  Progress on the TMP update also advanced in 2022, including work that will propose improvements to the City's active transportation network and facilities on local roads and within the park system. Updates to the City's EAM system to incorporate active transportation infrastructure (per action 2.3 above) will help support these future state of good repair improvements.
2.5	Continue the shift to using electricity in place of fossil fuels for the City's fleet vehicles and equipment.	Ongoing				In 2022, the City approved budget for the purchase of four electric City fleet vehicles and four charging stations for these vehicles, and is exploring additional opportunities for fleet electrification.
2.6	In partnership with other agencies and businesses, research and develop an electric vehicle charging network.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>
2.7	Explore opportunities to encourage the use of micromobility options, such as e-bikes and e-scooters.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				Exploration of micromobility considerations continued in 2022 as part of the Parks Use By-law update and Transportation Master Plan update, as well as through participation in a cross-municipal E-scooter Working Group.
2.8	Continue promoting programs that encourage and educate residents about healthy, active and sustainable ways of travelling.	Ongoing				Education and outreach continued in 2022 (e.g. promotion of Smart Commute workplace program events and initiatives). As part of the City's Earth Day Speaker Series, webinars were held to encourage walking, cycling and a shift to electric vehicles.  Further opportunities for outreach will be considered through the Transportation Master Plan Update and the Parking and TDM Strategy.

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2.9	Research, monitor trends, showcase and pilot sustainable transportation ideas that use new technology and/or approaches.	Ongoing	🔄			As part of the Transportation Master Plan update, the City continues to research and monitor emerging sustainable transportation trends and technologies (e.g. electric vehicles, micromobility, etc.).
<b>Water Resource Management</b>						
3.1	Create a Stormwater Network Model to plan for the impacts of climate change and growth on the City's stormwater systems and infrastructure, including low impact developments.	Phase 2 (2022-26)			☑	The Stormwater Network Model was completed in 2022.
3.2	Use the Stormwater Network Model to review and update the City's Master Drainage studies and plan for future stormwater needs.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				<i>Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.</i>
3.3	Improve monitoring and enforcement of development projects requiring Erosion and Sediment Control Plans.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated in Phase 2-3.</i>
3.4	Carry out and regularly update the Stormwater Management Rate Program to provide funding for improvements that reduce runoff and erosion, enhance water quality, protect infrastructure, and improve climate resiliency.	Ongoing	🔄			In 2022, Richmond Hill's updated Stormwater Rate Program came into effect. Throughout 2023, the City will revisit and explore opportunities for additional improvements to the program.
3.5	Put the Stormwater Infrastructure Capital Plan into action to improve the City's stormwater facilities and valleylands. Re-assess and update the plan as needed.	Ongoing	🔄			Implementation of the Stormwater Management 10-Year Capital Plan continued in 2022. Projects completed include: construction of Twickenham stormwater Pond (16-4), design of Beaver Creek Pond A (27-2), and design of valleyland restoration and rehabilitation of stormwater ponds (16-2 and 16-3, Elgin Mills & Bathurst Street area), Beaufort Hills Pond (2-4) feasibility study, and the Mill Street and Altamira Road Drainage Investigation.  Additionally, stormwater management facility asset data was refreshed with updated data and incorporated into the City's EAM, allowing for streamlined current State of Infrastructure (e.g. condition, value, age) data collection that can support future state of good repair improvements.
3.6	Carry out the City's stormwater infrastructure monitoring and inspection program, updating it as required.	Ongoing	🔄			Implementation of the City's stormwater infrastructure monitoring and inspection program continued in 2022.
3.7	Strive to improve the health of Lake Wilcox by carrying out and routinely updating the Lake Wilcox Management Plan.	Ongoing	🔄			Implementation of the City's Lake Wilcox Management Plan continued in 2022.
3.8	Continue to assess watershed health and protect natural assets through the City's Watershed Monitoring Program.	Ongoing	🔄			Implementation of the City's Watershed Monitoring Program continued in 2022.
3.9	Follow and periodically update the City's Salt Management Plan, explore salt management alternatives, and work with residents and businesses to reduce the use of salt.	Ongoing	🔄			Implementation of the City's Salt Management Plan continued in 2022, including use of route optimization and calibration technology on some City winter maintenance vehicles to reduce salt use.
3.10	Protect the built and natural environment and improve climate resiliency by carrying out the City's Inflow and Infiltration Program.	Ongoing	🔄			In 2022, the City continued collaborating with York Region to identify and target priority locations for sanitary infrastructure repairs to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I) throughout Richmond Hill.

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3.11	Work with partners to help educate residents on how to become water stewards by reducing stormwater impacts and improving water quality.	Ongoing				As part of design for the City's Minthorn Park Revitalization project and with grant funding provided by ICLEI Canada, the City hosted a Rain Gardens and Climate Change Workshop to discuss different ways residents can adapt their gardens to make them more resilient to climate change. The feedback provided helped identify community engagement opportunities, future programming ideas and educational resources the City can develop to further encourage climate resiliency at the lot level. With the funding, the City also developed two interpretive signs that will be placed at the demonstration rain gardens; these signs will increase awareness of climate change adaptation measures and inspire community members to apply some of these initiatives on their properties. A case study was also prepared that highlights the City's commitment to community climate resiliency through collaboration; it is available on the City's website.
3.12	Undertake pilot projects, potentially involving citizen/community science, to protect and improve water resource systems and stormwater infrastructure.	Ongoing				<i>Water resource management pilot projects to be explored as opportunities arise.</i>
3.13	Increase climate resilience and reduce the risk of home flooding during severe weather events through delivery of the Backwater Valve Subsidy Program.	Ongoing				Delivery of the Backwater Valve Subsidy Program continued in 2022, with the participation of 7 households.
3.14	Monitor and enforce existing by-laws (such as the Sewer-use By-law) to reduce hazardous spills on land and water.	Ongoing				In 2022, City staff continued to monitor and enforce the Sewer-use By-law and inspect and address blockages through the sanitary effluent sampling program. Doing so helps reduce the potential for hazardous spills on land and in our water.
<b>Water Conservation</b>						
4.1	Promote ways to conserve water in the community, including through lawn-watering restrictions.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				<i>Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.</i>
4.2	Promote water conservation and water-efficient technologies in new construction and redevelopment.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				<i>Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.</i>
4.3	Prioritize and act on City responsibilities set out in the York Region Long-Term Water Conservation Strategy.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				<i>Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.</i>
4.4	Support pilot programs for water re-use technologies and applications.	Ongoing				In 2022, the pool filtration system was replaced at Bayview Hill Community Centre, which will result in reduced water consumption and operational costs.
4.5	Work with partners to show residents and businesses how they can conserve water and protect water resources.	Ongoing				In late 2022 and early 2023, the City partnered with York Region to include an educational insert alongside water bills that encourages early leak detection as a means to save residents water and money.
<b>Sustainable Land Development</b>						
5.1	Consider incorporating sustainability elements in strategic locations within City parks to help adapt to the effects of our changing climate and promote resiliency.	Phase 2 (2022-26)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Approved by Council in 2022, the Parks Plan Update included policy direction to plan for resiliency to climate change in parks (see section 6.3), by applying a "climate change lens" to the overall planning, design, maintenance and operations of the City's park system. Doing so provides the opportunity for well-managed green spaces that will be more resilient in the face of a changing climate. This policy direction will guide future parks projects, and key accomplishments related to those projects will be reported under action 5.7 moving forward.
5.2	Provide incentives to encourage developers to exceed minimum threshold scores under the Sustainability Metrics Program.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				In 2022, the City completed an update to its Sustainability Metrics Program (SMP) to reflect legislative changes, updated building code requirements, municipal priorities, industry trends, and opportunities to increase innovation in sustainable development. In addition to the updated SMP, the City is currently undertaking a Community Improvement Project Study for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Design, which will explore opportunities to incentivize and promote uptake of metrics related to energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction in buildings.

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5.3	Showcase examples of innovative design ideas resulting from the Sustainability Metrics Program.	Ongoing				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to begin within Phase 2.</i>
5.4	Explore whether an equivalent alternative, such as the Sustainability Metrics Program, could replace LEED Silver as the standard for new buildings and major renovations of large City facilities.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>
5.5	Develop a list of standard climate interactions to identify climate risks and incorporate climate change considerations into asset management planning for municipal infrastructure.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				In 2022, the City developed a methodology/framework to incorporate the effects of climate change into the existing Asset Management Risk Management Strategy for Core+ assets. Climate change hazards were identified (leveraging previous work done in 2020 through the City's Climate Change Risk Scan and 2018 Climate Change Risk Assessment), and failure events exacerbated by Climate Change were linked to Core+ City assets. Vulnerability of Core+ assets to climate change was quantified based on various asset attributes (e.g. size, location, condition, etc.).
5.6	Create climate change design briefs for City facilities and other capital structures.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				<i>Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.</i>
5.7	Seek ways to incorporate sustainable and resilient features into the design and construction of City buildings and other assets.	Ongoing				In 2022, the City completed mechanical equipment replacement projects at Richmond Green Sports Complex, Elgin West Community Centre, and McConaghy Centre. These projects resulted in improved energy and utility savings through improved performance of the new equipment.  The City also began construction on the Bathurst Street watermain replacement from Major Mackenzie Drive West to Elgin Mills Road West. This project is using trenchless horizontal directional drilling to minimize environmental impacts to wildlife habitat and local watercourses.  Design for the Minthorn Park Revitalization Project, which includes the installation of two rain gardens as climate change adaptation measures, was advanced in 2022, with construction expected in 2023.
5.8	Launch an outreach initiative for residents in multi-residential buildings to explain and encourage choices that benefit the environment.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>
5.9	Work with developers and other partners to pilot, test feasibility and incentivize LID and other green infrastructure ideas.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				<i>Discussions underway and some preliminary work on this action is already taking place as part of the City's development review process. This action is on track to be initiated in Phase 2-3.</i>
5.10	Work with local partners to pilot and showcase ways that residents can make their homes more energy efficient and resilient to climate change.	Ongoing				See update provided under action 1.6.
5.11	Provide education and outreach to residents about sustainable development approaches, home efficiency, and climate resiliency improvements.	Ongoing				The City continues to promote sustainable development, efficiency and resiliency through social media and as part of occasional presentations to community groups about sustainability and actions that residents can take.











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<b>Natural Heritage and Urban Forest</b>						
6.1	Strive to increase tree canopy cover along streets, in parks and around buildings in new growth and high-density areas.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<p>As part of the 2022 Parks Plan update, Council approved direction to plan for a connected Urban Open Space System (see section 6.1). This system will direct future urban open space improvements through a visualization of how the municipal park system within and adjacent to the growing centres and corridors can move towards a unified interconnected network that serves the public at large, including among other matters, Greenway linkages and Streetscape and canopy enhancement opportunities.</p> <p>The City continued increasing canopy as part of infrastructure improvement projects by planting 1,166 trees and shrubs in 2022 (e.g. as part of SWM pond projects, at parks, watermain replacements, etc.).</p>
6.2	Include natural assets, such as trees, woodlands and meadows within the City's Asset Management Program.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				In 2022, natural assets (trees and natural areas) were incorporated into the City's Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) inventory, which provides the City with the ability to report State of Infrastructure (SOI) regarding condition, value, age, etc. for these natural assets.
6.3	Support trees on private lands through review of the City's tree-related by-laws and explore opportunities to incorporate standards that provide space for tree protection and/or establishment through the Comprehensive Zoning By-law.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Opportunities to support tree growth on private lands to be explored as part of the Comprehensive Zoning By-Law project currently underway - action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>
6.4	Explore the creation of tree canopy cover targets for different land uses.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				In 2022, with support of York Region and Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the City completed an Urban Forest Study, which quantified and assessed the existing distribution and condition of the urban forest. The study identifies canopy cover by land use type, and the results will inform potential future tree canopy cover targets for different land uses in Richmond Hill.
6.5	Create a prioritization tool and supporting documents to help establish and improve connections between natural heritage features, leveraging traditional ecological knowledge where possible and promoting access to green spaces for all.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated in Phase 2-3.</i>
6.6	Update the City's Natural Area Inventory and regularly assess publicly owned natural areas to better understand the health of natural spaces and habitat for native species.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>
6.7	Improve coordination and management of ecological data between departments, including data obtained from developers.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				Phase 1 of the Natural Environment Data Management project was initiated in 2022 (e.g. project charter established, kick-off meeting complete, etc.).
6.8	Undertake ecological restoration to protect and enhance the City's natural areas.	Ongoing				<p>Woodlot management and maintenance continued at Beaver Woodland, Elgin Mills Greenway, Phyllis Rawlinson Park and DDO Park (Phase 1 &amp; 2) in 2022. Additionally, restoration work to address the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) at Saigeon Trail began in 2022. Work on the DDO Phase 3 restoration plan began in 2022 and implementation will commence in Summer 2023.</p> <p>In addition, the City continued working with TRCA to restore 4 hectares of meadow within the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve. This project began in 2021 and will continue through 2023.</p>
6.9	Develop best practices and a public education program for naturalization in City parks.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>

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6.10	Continue working with partners to deliver the Community Stewardship Program to restore and enhance Richmond Hill's natural environment.	Ongoing	↻			The Community Stewardship Program (CSP) continued in 2022 with 6.2 hectares of area restored, 9,855 trees and shrubs planted, 17 habitat enhancement structures installed, 118 bags of invasive plant species removed, 99 events and 6 webinars hosted. In total, 20 schools, business and community groups, and nearly 1,350 volunteers participated for a total of 3250 volunteer hours. The City also received \$100,500 in funding from York Region to aid in the implementation of this program in 2022.
6.11	Continue the Healthy Yards Program, which helps homeowners plant native trees, shrubs and flowers to attract more pollinators and other native species.	Ongoing	↻			The Healthy Yards Program continued in 2022. In total, 1,387 trees and shrubs, 3,680 wildflowers, 300 rain barrels and 300 backyard composters were sold. The City also hosted 3 webinars to educate residents about incorporating native plants on their property. Partnership funding was once again provided by York Region.
6.12	Get residents, and especially young people, excited about the urban forest and natural systems through education, engagement and citizen/community science initiatives.	Ongoing	↻			Education on native trees and shrubs was provided through the City's Healthy Yards and Community Stewardship Programs, and urban forest education and resource sharing with the community continued through the Greening the Hill booth at public events. A "Gardening with Children" webinar was hosted through the Richmond Hill Blooms Program.  Additionally, as part of the Minthorn Park revitalization project (see actions 3.11, 5.7 and 9.4), the City engaged the community to begin developing educational resources related to the rain gardens and naturalization areas that are being added to the park.
6.13	Carry out pilot projects for urban forest and natural heritage improvement.	Ongoing				Pilot projects for urban forest and natural heritage improvements to be explored as opportunities arise.
<b>Invasive Species</b>						
7.1	Develop a comprehensive Invasive Species Management Strategy and Action Plan; review and update it as necessary.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated in Phase 2-3.</i>
7.2	In the interim, develop a protocol to guide how the City responds to and manages emerging invasive species.	Phase 2 (2022-26)			☑	The City's internal Invasive Species Interim Response Procedure was established and finalized in 2022. Staff training on the protocol will take place in early 2023 and on an as-needed basis.
7.3	Continue to implement the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Strategy.	Ongoing	↻			In 2022, the City removed and replaced 280 ash trees and treated 145 street ash trees due to EAB. The City also continued conducting woodlot management and maintenance at Beaver Woodland, and began woodlot management at Saigeon Trail (this project includes hazardous ash tree removal, invasive species management, planting and monitoring).  Public communication on tree treatment, removals and replacements continued as needed.
7.4	Carry out pilot projects to plan for and manage invasive species using innovative techniques, tools and best management practices.	Ongoing	↻			In 2022, the City continued to manage the impacts of spongy moth. In total, over 135,350 spongy moth egg masses were removed, nearly 6,650 trees were vacuumed, over 90 oak trees were treated with TreeAzin, and 5,660 burlap kits were distributed to residents.  Additionally, two patches (0.09ha) of phragmites were treated and removed at Phyllis Rawlinson Park. Patches will be reassessed in 2023 for retreatment.

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7.5	Educate residents about how to monitor for and manage invasive species on their own property and in the community.	Ongoing	↻			EAB and Spongy moth education continued to be provided to the community on the City's website and social media, through the development of 2 spongy moth educational videos, and via the Greening the Hill booth at public events. A social media plan is also in development to further improve invasive species education and awareness.  As part of the Community Stewardship Program, the City hosted 7 invasive species management events with community volunteers and 118 bags of invasive plants were removed.
7.6	Work with partners and leverage citizen/community science tools to monitor and manage invasive species in the community.	Ongoing				<i>Progress expected in future years of Environment Strategy implementation. Note: establishment of the Invasive Species Management Strategy and Action Plan (7.1) will help inform development of this program.</i>
<b>Wildlife</b>						
8.1	Continue to manage conflicts between people and geese and beavers through the City's Canada Goose Management Strategy and Beaver Management Policy.	Ongoing	↻			Ongoing Canada Goose and Beaver monitoring and management continued in 2022.
8.2	Where possible, make wildlife survival part of the design and building of new City infrastructure, including roads (for example, considering rolled curbs in turtle crossing areas).	Phase 3 (2027-31)	↻			The City continues to follow legislative requirements and incorporates wildlife survival measures and improvements (as applicable) during design and construction of City infrastructure projects.  <i>*Note: this action has been identified as an ongoing priority, to be reported on prior to phase 3 of Environment Strategy implementation.</i>
8.3	Explore ways to protect wildlife and their habitats through City operations and maintenance practices.	Phase 3 (2027-31)	↻			Through the City's annual partnership with Ontario Streams, 14 in-stream habitat improvements were completed in 2022. In addition, in partnership with TRCA, 4 bird habitat structures were installed at Lake Wilcox Channel in 2022.  <i>*Note: this action has been identified as an ongoing priority, to be reported on prior to phase 3 of Environment Strategy implementation.</i>
8.4	Explore policies and initiatives to create a more bird-friendly Richmond Hill.	Ongoing	↻			In 2022, the City took action in a number of ways, including facilitating 3 bird-related educational webinars and by working with TRCA to install 4 bird habitat structures at Lake Wilcox Channel. Through updates to the City's Official Plan (OPA 18.3) and the Sustainability Metrics Program, the City will continue to promote and encourage the reduction of light pollution and bird safe design for private developments.
8.5	Educate residents about interactions with and the benefits of local wildlife and biodiversity.	Ongoing	↻			In 2022, the City hosted 6 wildlife-related webinars (nearly 300 participants total) and developed a wildlife board game for use at the Greening the Hill public event booth. General wildlife communications (e.g. to discourage wildlife feeding, coyote management, etc.) continued in 2022.
8.6	Carry out pilot projects to protect wildlife and enhance habitat using innovative techniques and tools.	Ongoing	↻			In 2022, Richmond Hill piloted a unique approach to facilitating wildlife connections by installing asphalt ramps along the curbs of Newman Avenue to create temporary turtle crossing areas.
<b>Local Food and Pollinators</b>						
9.1	Seek ways to increase urban agriculture and pollinator-friendly gardens in new and re-development projects, especially in densely populated areas and in proximity to vulnerable populations.	Ongoing	↻			Through Council approval of Official Plan Amendment 18.3 in 2022, additional policies were added to the City's Official Plan to permit urban agriculture via community gardens, rooftop greenhouses and vertical agriculture.



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9.2	Expand pollinator habitat and local food production on City land through planning and infrastructure projects.	Ongoing	🔄			In 2022, through the Parks Plan update, Council approved policies to direct the City's approach to the provision of community allotment and collective gardens in Richmond Hill. Opportunities to explore and implement pollinator habitat and local food improvements on City land will continue under this direction on an ongoing basis.
9.3	Carry out pilot projects to expand local food production and protect pollinators on public property.	Ongoing	🔄			In 2022, the City created a pilot/test garden space in its community allotment garden for garden groups to practice and learn garden management and maintenance techniques.
9.4	Explore passive education opportunities, such as signage in community gardens or parks, to teach residents about local food and pollinators.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↩️		As part of the Minthorn Park Revitalization project (see actions 3.11, 5.7 and 6.12), the City developed signage to be installed within the Park that highlights the benefits of pollinator plants in rain gardens.
9.5	Develop outdoor education programs with a focus on local food production.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated within Phase 2.</i>
9.6	Seek partnerships with residents and organizations to promote and encourage local food security and production.	Ongoing	🔄			The City continues to explore opportunities for community partnerships to encourage local food security and production. For example, as part of the City's Community Garden Program (see action 9.7), the Sussex Park collective garden, administered by the Salvation Army, provides education to program participants on how to grow fresh produce.
9.7	Create and expand community gardens in line with the City's Community Garden Policy.	Ongoing	🔄			Implementation of the City's Community Garden Policy and program continued in 2022.
9.8	Participate in partnership programs that promote pollinator protection.	Ongoing	🔄			In 2022, Richmond Hill continued acting upon its commitments to protect pollinators as part of its work with the Pollinator Partnership (Bee City designation) and through the Mayor's Monarch Pledge.
9.9	Encourage residents and businesses to plant pollinator-friendly native plants and naturalize their properties.	Ongoing	🔄			Through the City's Healthy Yards Program (see action 6.11), as part of its 2022 Earth Day Speaker Series, and through the Richmond Hill Blooms Program, the City provided educational webinars on native plants, pollinators and home-grown food, as well as subsidized native plant kits available for residents to purchase to promote pollinator friendly gardens and yards.
<b>Waste</b>						
10.1	Reduce single-use plastics by carrying out a corporate policy, a public education campaign, and a business engagement program.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↩️		<p>Public Education Campaign - remains ongoing and includes a dedicated webpage, waste calendar and social media ads, focused on raising awareness of environmental impacts and options to reduce Single Use Plastics (SUP).</p> <p>Corporate Policy - In 2022, the City released its Corporate Single Use Plastics Reduction Policy, along with an educational guide for staff and vendors at City facilities and events; as a result, the City has made improvements to significantly reduce reliance on single use items. For example, single use plastics were reduced at staff events (e.g. use of reusable dishware and cutlery). In addition, common SUPs were removed from the City's Municipal Offices and Operations Centre. In 2022, the RHCPA reduced SUPs by using reusable plates, cutlery and wine glasses where possible, and has switched from single-serve milk, cream and sugar to bulk options. Disposable plastic cups are no longer being provided, unless requested by the customer.</p> <p>Business Recognition - In partnership with the City, York Region completed a survey of local businesses to better understand how they are currently using single use items and the barriers to reducing their use. This information is being used to develop the necessary tools to support and assist businesses with reducing reliance on SUP.</p>

Action ID	Action	Timing	Action Status			2022 Progress Update
			Ongoing	Underway	Complete	
10.2	Work with York Region and the Province to ensure a smooth and fair transition to producer responsibility for recycling. Monitor and address issues, as needed.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				In 2022, the City participated in working groups with other municipalities and producers to continue working together on the path towards producer responsibility for the Blue Box program.
10.3	Work to reduce and divert more waste at City events.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				As part of its commitment to reduce single use plastics and increase waste diversion, the City continued to encourage residents to bring their own reusable water bottles to larger City events where they can refill them at the City's water trailer.  Eco stations and signage continues to encourage the public to properly divert waste at City-led events.  Externally, vendors and contractors are being informed of the City's single use plastics policy and internally staff are changing previous practices to adhere to the policy guidelines and alternative acceptable forms of supplies/materials used at City-led events.
10.4	Reduce and divert waste through waste audits, waste reduction plans, source separation programs and education at applicable City facilities.	Ongoing				The 2022 waste audit at City Hall has been completed and the City achieved its highest diversion rate to date with 85% of waste diverted from garbage. In addition, 4,530 lbs. of batteries were collected at City facilities and recycled in 2022.
10.5	Carry out pilot projects to reduce and divert waste through innovative techniques, tools and partnerships.	Ongoing				In 2022, the City continued to work with multi-residential buildings to facilitate collection and diversion of batteries, electronics and textile waste.
10.6	Educate the community on how to reduce waste and litter, and divert more waste through the blue box and organics programs.	Ongoing				Waste education continues through the City's waste calendar, waste app (Recycle Coach), and social media. In 2022, the City launched a new waste look-up tool on its website to help residents properly sort and dispose of their waste. In addition, the City launched an anti-littering campaign with a dedicated web page, social media and waste calendar ads, as well as signage posted at locations where litter or illegal dumping issues have been reported.
10.7	Explore ways to improve waste diversion in multi-residential buildings and encourage diversion in schools.	Ongoing				In 2022, the City continued to provide waste education to residents in multi-residential buildings by distributing electronic and hard copy waste management guides to all 14,700 units serviced. In addition, the City delivered two in-person educational events for buildings wanting to improve organics and recycling diversion.
10.8	Promote and support community reuse opportunities to advance the circular economy in Richmond Hill.	Ongoing				Collaboration with York Region to promote community reuse and the circular economy continued in 2022 through promotion of Repair Cafes at the Central Library and community Curbside Giveaway events. As part of the City's Earth Day Speaker Series, a webinar was held to encourage residents to reduce their waste footprint through a circular economy approach.
10.9	Undertake events like the City's Clean Up, Green Up Weeks to encourage waste stewardship and reduce litter.	Ongoing				After a 2-year hiatus due to COVID-19, Richmond Hill's Clean Up, Green Up weeks returned in 2022. The City supported over 200 groups, comprised of over 9,000 volunteers which cleaned up 70 parks/trails and 105 streets across the City.