







Urban Forest Management Plan Progress Tracker (2020 to 2022)						
Action ID	Action	Time	Action Status			Status
			Ongoing	Underway	Complete	
GOAL 1 - Build Knowledge to make wise decisions						
1.1.1	In partnership with York Region, assess canopy cover and woodland cover.	5 yrs			☑	Woodland and canopy cover were assessed in 2020 and reported on in the 2022 Urban Forest Study. The next assessment is set to take place in 2025.
1.1.2	In partnership with York Region, complete an urban forest study for Richmond Hill.	10 yrs			☑	In 2022, the City completed an Urban Forest Study, which quantified and assessed the existing distribution and condition of the urban forest. The final report identifies opportunities for improvement and tracks progress of Richmond Hill's canopy cover goals.
1.2.1	Regularly update the City tree inventory as changes are made and improve data quality.	Ongoing	↻			Updated daily as part of regular urban forestry operation practices.
1.2.2	Further develop the City tree inventory to include trees in parks and around municipal facilities, such as community centres.	Short term (2020-2025)			☑	The City tree inventory has been updated to include all trees in existing parks, community centres and other municipal facilities. As new parks and subdivisions come on line, inventory is continually updated.
1.2.3	Inventory vacant plantable spaces for City trees.	Short term (2020-2025)		↘		As part of the Urban Forest Study and Community Stewardship Program, plantable areas have been inventoried throughout the City as a desktop exercise. In 2024 staff will look into opportunities inventory street and parks at a more granular level.
1.2.4	Regularly update the Natural Area Inventory and Assessment of publicly owned natural areas.	5yrs/10 yrs				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated in 2024.
1.3.1	Investigate and test new cultivars, less common, and/or typically more southern tree species for suitability in Richmond Hill.	Ongoing	↻			Staff continue to partner with the Municipal Arborist and Urban Forestry working group (MAUF) to influence what nurseries are stocking. Parks and Natural Heritage Planning staff continue to test small quantities of new cultivars on certain restoration plans that have been secured through the planning process.

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1.3.2	Continue planning for tree and woodland assets in the context of the City's asset management program.	Ongoing				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> 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.
1.3.3	Explore partnership opportunities to develop a planting prioritization tool.	Short term (2020-2025)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	York Region has developed a tree planting prioritization tool which incorporates components that can be adapted for the City of Richmond Hill in partnership with the Region. Richmond Hill will use the York Region tree planting priorities tool until the City develops a natural heritage strategy.
1.3.4	Assess the urban forest for vulnerability to climate change.	Medium term (2025-2030)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Urban Forest Study (2022) included an assessment the urban forests vulnerability to climate change.</p> <p>Twelve of the twenty most abundant tree species in Richmond Hill are highly or extremely vulnerable to climate changing, including the top five species. These 12 species make up 66% of the total population of trees across Richmond Hill's urban forest.</p> <p>Recommendations from the report include assessing and updating the city's tree planting lists to include species that have low or moderate vulnerability to climate change and increasing the number and diversity of climate resilient native and non-native non-invasive plants species.</p>
GOAL 2 - Plan and protect to preserve canopy cover						
2.1.1	Update city-wide total canopy cover target to 30% in the Official Plan to protect existing canopy.	Short term (2020-2025)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As part of the Official Plan Update, Official Plan Amendment (OPA) 18.3 was updated and approved by Council on June 27th, 2022 and recognizes the important role of trees in improving air quality and reducing the urban heat island effect. Official Plan Amendment 18.3 establishes an updated minimum canopy cover target of 30 percent for the City and woodland cover targets of 15 percent.

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2.1.2	Explore a woodland cover target of 15% and investigate supporting policies in the Official Plan to protect existing woodlands.	Short term (2020-2025)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	See UFMP Action 2.1.1
2.1.3	Explore implementation of land-use-based tree canopy cover targets in the Official Plan to better serve developed areas.	Short term (2020-2025)				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> 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.
2.2.1	Increase staff understanding and knowledge of tree preservation requirements.	Ongoing				Underway and ongoing in consultation with development engineering. The Standards and Specifications Manual (Design and Construction Guidelines - City of Richmond Hill) was updated and posted on RH website. Refer to: Division K - Planting (richmondhill.ca) – K2.1 Tree Preservation and Protection
2.2.2	Improve business processes and staff coordination around urban forest protection related matters.	Ongoing				Staff undertook background research in 2022 to be able to initiate two LEAN projects in 2023 related to 1) updating business processes for planning applications requesting City tree removals, and 2) educating the public and landowners about obtaining consent to remove/injure boundary trees per the requirements of the <i>Ontario Forestry Act</i> .
2.3.1	Develop urban forest planting and protection standards, specifications and details.	Short term (2020-2025)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Standards and Specifications Manual (Design and Construction Guidelines - City of Richmond Hill) was updated and posted on the RH website in December 2022. Refer to Division K - Planting and Urban Forest Planting Guidelines
2.3.2	Review and update tree-related City by-laws and implementation process.	Short term (2020-2025)				Discussions underway, to be informed by the findings of the Urban Forest Study.
2.3.3	Implement the use of the Administrative Monetary Penalty System for tree-related City by-laws.	Short term (2020-2025)				Discussions underway, to be informed by the findings of the Urban Forest Study.

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2.3.4	Explore opportunities to incorporate standards in Comprehensive Zoning By-law to provide space for tree protection and/or establishment.	Medium term (2025-2030)				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</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 between 2025 and 2030.
2.3.5	Continue reviewing fees and charges associated with tree permits and conditions.	Annually	↻			Staff undertook research in 2022 to inform a phased increase to the replanting fee between 2023-2025 to ensure closer to full cost recovery.
GOAL 3 - Strengthen the urban forest to increase resilience						
3.1.1	Explore implementation of a 7-8-year average inspection/pruning cycle for all City-managed trees.	Medium term (2025-2030)				On track to be initiated in 2023.
3.1.2	Formalize and continue young tree structural pruning program.	Medium term (2025-2030)				On track to be initiated in 2023 as part of UFMP Action 3.1.2.
3.1.3	Refine tree risk assessment and mitigation practices.	Ongoing		↘		Tree risk assessment and mitigation practices will be reviewed as part of Tree By-Laws review project (UFMP Action 2.3.2), which is underway.
3.1.4	Foster collaboration between City staff and local utility and transportation providers to improve installation, maintenance and protection of green infrastructure within right of ways.	Long term (2030-2040)				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</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 between 2030 and 2040.

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3.2.1	Investigate and implement best practices to increase species diversity through tree establishment planning.	Short term (2020-2025)				<p>The Urban Forest Study identified recommendations to improve the Cities planting list based on the climate vulnerability of each species; the potential of each species to provide energy savings; and each species capacity for carbon storage and sequestration. This is on track to be initiated in 2024.</p> <p>As an ongoing part of urban forestry's daily operations, the City has a street tree selection with over 80 different species to choose from.</p> <p>The City's Community Stewardship Program and Healthy Yards considers diversity in their program areas, changing approximately 30% of the species list annually.</p>
3.2.2	Develop an Invasive Species Management Plan for invasive species, pests and diseases.	Medium term (2025-2030)				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated between 2025 and 2030.
3.3.1	Create a Natural Heritage Strategy that will help set priorities for natural area management.	Short term (2020-2025)				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated between 2020 and 2035.
3.3.2	Refine and formalize a plan and approach for creating and restoring natural wooded areas.	Medium term (2025-2030)				<p>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated between 2025 and 2030.</p> <p><i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> The City continues to undertake woodlot management. Woodlot management and maintenance continued at Beaver Woodland, Elgin Mills Greenway, Phyllis Rawlinson Park and David Dunlap Observatory Park (Phase 1 & 2) in 2022. Additionally, restoration work to address the impacts of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) at Saigeon Trail began in 2022. Work on the David Dunlap Observatory Phase 3 restoration plan began in 2022 and implementation began in Summer 2023.</p>

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GOAL 4 - Grow partnerships to strengthen stewardship						
4.1.1	Develop an urban forest public education and engagement strategy.	Short term (2020-2025)				<p>The City is preparing a more formal approach to engaging the public on urban forest education to be initiated in 2024.</p> <p>To date, education and outreach on native trees, shrubs, and the urban forest is provided through the City's Healthy Yards, Community Stewardship Program, and Greening the Hill programming.</p> <p>The City continued its Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and spongy moth education campaigns through web and social media content, developing two spongy moth educational videos.</p>
4.1.2	Explore creating a heritage tree recognition program.	Medium term (2025-2030)				Action on track to be initiated between 2025 and 2030.
4.1.3	Promote the existing practice to plant trees by request on residential boulevards.	Medium term (2025-2030)				Action on track to be initiated between 2025 and 2030.
4.1.4	Facilitate and promote urban forest “Citizen Science”.	Long term (2030-2040)				<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> See UFMP Action 4.1.1 <i>Note: establishment of the Invasive Species Management Strategy and Action Plan (UFMP Action 3.2.2) will help inform development of this program.</i>
4.1.5	Provide public access to information about City-owned trees.	Long term (2030-2040)				On track to be initiated between 2030 and 2040.

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4.2.1	Continue the delivery of existing successful tree establishment and stewardship programs on public and private residential lands.	Ongoing	↻			<p>Since Council approval of the Urban Forest Management Plan in 2020, the Community Stewardship Program has continued to engage residents and volunteers in natural area stewardship on public and private lands. Over the course of 3 years, through the Community Stewardship Program, 27,955 trees and shrubs were planted with 2025 volunteers; and 241 partner-led events and 18 workshops were held with over 1800 participants. The Community Stewardship Program continues to partner with organizations such as York Region, Ontario Streams, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF), local schools, businesses and community groups.</p> <p>Over the past three years, the Healthy Yards program continued to provide private residents with native tree and shrubs to naturalize their properties. Since Council approval of the Urban Forest Management Plan in 2020, the Healthy Yards program sold 3605 trees and shrubs, 9552 wildflowers, 878 backyard composters and 952 rain barrels. Partnership funding has been provided by York Region.</p>
4.2.2	Develop recognition/incentive programs for urban forest stewardship.	Medium term (2025-2030)				Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated between 2025 and 2030.
4.2.3	Investigate an “Adopt-a-Tree” or similar stewardship program for City trees.	Long term (2030-2040)				On track to be initiated between 2030 and 2040.
4.2.4	Investigate expanding the delivery of existing tree establishment programs to suitable institutional, industrial and commercial lands.	Long term (2030-2040)				On track to be initiated between 2030 and 2040.
4.3.1	Continue to work with existing partners and engage new partners to support delivery of Richmond Hill’s urban forest stewardship programs.	Ongoing	↻			See UFMP Action 4.2.1
4.3.2	Foster partnerships with academic institutions to support urban forest research.	Ongoing	↻			Partnerships for urban forest and natural heritage improvements will be explored as opportunities arise.

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4.3.3	Continue support of partner agency urban forest and stewardship programs.	Ongoing	↺			See UFMP Action 4.2.1
4.3.4	Partner with development industry, public agencies, and others on demonstration and pilot projects.	Ongoing	↺			<i>*Update From Environment Strategy Tracking Sheet</i> Pilot projects for urban forest and natural heritage improvements to be explored as opportunities arise.