

## SRPBS.24.017 – Attachment 1 – 2023 Environment Strategy Progress Tracker

| Action ID     | Action   | Timing            | Action Status   |   |          | 2023 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) |   |    |          | The Richmond Hill Centre Secondary (RHC) Plan was adopted by Council in May 2023 and includes policies intended to support opportunities for the development of a district energy system, alternative energy systems or renewable energy systems in RHC through the planning and development process.   |
| 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) |   |    |          | <p>In 2023, Council adopted four Official Plan Amendments (OPAs): OPA 18.5 - Yonge/16th Carville KDA, OPA 18.6 - Village Local Centre, OPA 18.7 - Newkirk Local Centre, and OPA 18.8 - Oak Ridges Local Centre. The amendments provide policy direction for each specific centre and support climate change mitigation and adaptation by promoting compact development and complete communities.</p> <p>Through forthcoming OPAs, the City will continue to explore the need for additional policies that consider climate change mitigation measures as well as the potential impacts of climate change on new development and surrounding areas.</p>                                      |
| 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) |   |    |          | The target of achieving Net Zero GHG emissions by 2050 for municipal buildings will be included in the 2024 Corporate Energy Plan. Net Zero Emissions feasibility studies are underway for four City facilities to help develop a plan to reach this target (see action 1.4).   |
| 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           |    |   |          | <p>In 2023, the City initiated four Net Zero GHG Emissions feasibility studies to understand costs and measures needed to retrofit City facilities to achieve Net Zero GHG emissions. These studies will inform the 2024 Corporate Energy Plan (CEP) update.</p> <p>Implementation of the CEP continued in 2023. Projects include implementation of energy efficient measures recommended by the recommissioning studies completed at five arenas, and initiation of recommissioning studies for the City's four indoor swimming pool facilities.</p> <p>The City met its requirement in 2023 to report annual facility energy consumption and GHG emissions to the Ministry of Energy.</p> |
| 1.5           | Regularly review and report corporate and community GHG emissions every five years to inform future projects that reduce GHG emissions.  | Ongoing           |  |   |          | The next corporate GHG inventory is 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) |   |  |          | <p>In 2023, Richmond Hill partnered with the City of Markham to submit a joint application for Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) funding to study the feasibility of a home energy retrofit financing program in Markham and Richmond Hill. This study will explore opportunities to encourage and incentivize deep home energy retrofits. The City also initiated a home energy improvement survey, including the opportunity for personalized guidance from an energy expert, to help inform and shape Richmond Hill's future home energy retrofit programming.</p> <p>Additional education and outreach on home energy retrofits is detailed in action 1.8 below.</p>          |
| 1.7           | Showcase and pilot projects that reduce GHG emissions through innovative technology and approaches.  | Ongoing           |  |   |          | In 2023, the City installed four new electric vehicle chargers at the Operations Centre to service future electric municipal fleet vehicles.  |

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|                       |  |                   | Ongoing   | Underway  | Complete |   |
| 1.8                   | Work with partners to educate residents and businesses about how to conserve energy and shift to renewable or alternative energy sources.                                    | Ongoing           |    |   |          | <p>In 2023, Richmond Hill worked with partners to encourage energy efficiency and alternative energy sources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering free Home Energy Retrofit Orientation (HERO) and Sealing Energy Leakages (SEL) webinars, in partnership with the City of Markham, Humber College, and Enbridge Gas to educate homeowners on ways to save energy</li> <li>• Launching the home energy improvement survey and follow-up consultations (per action 1.6)</li> <li>• Providing residents with education on heat pumps, electric vehicles, and other sustainable home energy technologies at the City's 2023 Earth Day event</li> <li>• Participating in the community-led "Heat Pumps Unveiled" event which featured speakers/experts from the renewable energy field.</li> </ul>   |
| <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) |   |  |          | The Parking and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Strategy has been substantially completed. The next phase of this TDM Strategy is to implement the recommendations through the Comprehensive Zoning By-law Update (CZBL) in alignment with the CZBL project time frame.  |
| 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           |    |   |          | <p>In 2023, the City received \$3.18 million in grant funding through the Federal Active Transportation Fund for the David Dunlap Observatory Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge and Recreation Trail project.</p> <p>In addition, Richmond Hill continues to collaborate with:</p> <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</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) |   |  |          | <p>Life cycle strategies, risk, and levels of service considerations for active transportation were incorporated into the City's Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) in 2023.</p> <p>Phase 2 updates to the City's Standards and Specifications Manual have been initiated, which include greater active transportation considerations.</p>   |
| 2.4                   | Expand and improve Richmond Hill's active transportation network.  | Ongoing           |  |   |          | <p>The Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update was completed and approved by Council in 2023. The updated TMP includes a significant component on active and sustainable transportation, transportation demand management (TDM) and emerging technologies. It prioritizes projects that will improve the City's active transportation network and facilities on local roads and within the park system. Specifically, it establishes a Priority Active Transportation/Recreational Trail Spine route running north and east across Richmond Hill, and prioritization lists for active transportation and trail improvement projects.</p> <p>The Macleod Trail extension (Priority Spine Trail #7 in the TMP) opened in November 2023, providing an 800 metre multi-use trail connection to the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve spine trail. This project was undertaken through a tri-party funding partnership between the City, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Gray Foundation, creating the final secondary trail link between the communities adjacent the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve and the Oak Ridges Moraine Spine Trail.</p> <p>Additional projects constructed include a multi-use path on Bethesda Road from Anchusa Drive to Leslie Street and the David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) Park Assignment #2 Trails in the wooded area. Design for the DDO CN overpass also took place in 2023, along with active transportation feasibility studies for Bayview Park Lane, Sandbanks Drive, Park Crescent and Bantry Avenue, Briggs Avenue were initiated in 2023.</p> |

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|                                  |  |                     | Ongoing       | Underway | Complete |   |
| 2.5                              | Continue the shift to using electricity in place of fossil fuels for the City's fleet vehicles and equipment.  | Ongoing             | 🔄             |          |          | In 2023, the City installed four new electric vehicle chargers at the Operations Centre 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)   |               | ↩️       |          | A recommendation coming out of the Transportation Master Plan Update is for the City to develop an Electric Vehicle Strategy to investigate the feasibility of electric vehicle charging stations at select City-owned facilities. The Electric Vehicle Strategy is scheduled to begin in 2024.   |
| 2.7                              | Explore opportunities to encourage the use of micromobility options, such as e-bikes and e-scooters.   | Phase 2 (2022-26)   |               | ↩️       |          | A Micromobility Strategy, also a recommendation of the Transportation Master Plan Update, will be developed to determine key considerations and direction for the City on how to approach micromobility.<br><br>Participation in a cross-municipal E-scooter Work Group has continued.  |
| 2.8                              | Continue promoting programs that encourage and educate residents about healthy, active and sustainable ways of travelling.   | Ongoing             | 🔄             |          |          | Education and outreach continued in 2023 (e.g. promotion of Smart Commute workplace program events and initiatives). At its Spring Green Fair (Earth Day event), the City partnered with Plug n' Drive and Tesla Canada to provide residents with the opportunity to test drive and learn more about electric vehicle options.  |
| 2.9                              | Research, monitor trends, showcase and pilot sustainable transportation ideas that use new technology and/or approaches.   | Ongoing             | 🔄             |          |          | 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             | 🔄             |          |          | Council approved a new Stormwater Rate structure in November 2023 to make the fee more equitable. In December 2023, Council approved a 9% increase to the fee effective April 1, 2024 as an interim measure for additional funding. Council will consider a Stormwater Management Financial Plan along with a Water and Wastewater Financial Plan in 2024.  |
| 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 2023. Projects completed include:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction of Beaver Woodland Pond (27-2N)</li> <li>• feasibility studies of Pomona Creek/Garden Ave, GM1 and South Richvale valleyland rehabilitation sites, and Driftwood Pond (8-2)</li> <li>• pond sediment removal projects for Cedar Springs Pond (16-8) and Snively Plunge Pool</li> <li>• environmental assessment for the Snively Wetland Outlet, Schomberg Culvert and Humber Flats Pond (1-4)</li> <li>• Storm Pond Function Assessment study</li> </ul> |
| 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 2023.   |

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|                           |   |                   | Ongoing       | Underway | Complete |  |
| 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 2023.  |
| 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 2023.   |
| 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 2023; through this, the City is actively working on improving our route optimization techniques, monitoring our material usage, and exploring alternative materials that have a lower environmental impact, such as brine.  |
| 3.10                      | Protect the built and natural environment and improve climate resilience by carrying out the City's Inflow and Infiltration Program.                                    | Ongoing           | 🔄             |          |          | In 2023, the City identified priority locations for rehabilitation/repair of sanitary infrastructure to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I) throughout Richmond Hill.   |
| 3.11                      | Work with partners to help educate residents on how to become water stewards by reducing stormwater impacts and improving water quality.                                | Ongoing           | 🔄             |          |          | To build on the work completed in 2022, the City held an in-person open house to engage and educate residents about rain gardens and how they can introduce climate adaptation measures at home.   |
| 3.12                      | Undertake pilot projects, potentially involving citizen/community science, to protect and improve water resource systems and stormwater infrastructure.                 | Ongoing           | 🔄             |          |          | Water resource management pilot projects to be explored as opportunities arise.  |
| 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 2023.   |
| 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 2023, 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           | 🔄             |          |          | Pilot projects for water re-use technologies and applications will continue to be assessed as opportunities arise.   |
| 4.5                       | Work with partners to show residents and businesses how they can conserve water and protect water resources.  | Ongoing           | 🔄             |          |          | In partnership with ICLEI Canada's Advancing Adaptation program, the City held a Rain Gardens and Climate Change Open House in May 2023 to inform and discuss different ways residents can adapt their own gardens to conserve water and mitigate climate change impacts.<br><br>General education on water conservation continues through newsletters and social media. |

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|                                     |  |                   | Ongoing  | Underway  | Complete                            |   |
| <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"/> | Action completed in 2022.   |
| 5.2                                 | Provide incentives to encourage developers to exceed minimum threshold scores under the Sustainability Metrics Program.  | Phase 2 (2022-26) |  |    |                                     | The City is currently undertaking a Community Improvement Plan Study for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Design, which will explore opportunities to incentivize and promote the implementation of sustainable design practices, including energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions reduction in new buildings.  |
| 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) |  |    |                                     | In 2023, the City initiated a review of its current Sustainable Building Policy for Richmond Hill facilities to explore opportunities for improvement and alignment with our climate goals and objectives.  |
| 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 2023, the City continued to incorporate climate change considerations into the development of the existing asset management risk framework for trees and natural areas.  |
| 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           |  |   |                                     | Through implementation of its Corporate Energy Plan, in 2023, the City completed HVAC upgrades at Richmond Green Sports Complex, Rouge Woods Community Centre, and McConaghy Centre. The City also implemented energy efficiency measures recommended by the recommissioning studies completed at five arenas and initiated recommissioning studies for the City's four indoor swimming pool facilities.<br><br>Construction for the Minthorn Park Revitalization Project, which includes the installation of two rain gardens as climate change adaptation measures, was advanced in 2023, with completion expected in 2024. |
| 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) |  |  |                                     | In 2023, planning for a pilot project to provide environmental outreach to residents in new multi-residential buildings was completed. Outreach is expected to begin on a case-by-case basis in 2024.   |
| 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>Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.</i>  |

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|  |   |                     | Ongoing       | Underway | Complete |   |
| 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             | ↻             |          |          | In 2023, Richmond Hill collaborated with partners to encourage energy efficiency and climate resiliency in a number of ways, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering free Home Energy Retrofit Orientation (HERO) and Sealing Energy Leakages (SEL) webinars, in partnership with Enbridge Gas, Humber Collage, and the City of Markham to educate homeowners on ways to save energy</li> <li>• Launching the home energy improvement survey and follow-up consultations (per action 1.6)</li> <li>• Providing residents with education on heat pumps, electric vehicles, and other sustainable home energy technologies at the City's Earth Day event</li> <li>• Holding a Rain Gardens and Climate Change Open House in May 2023 to inform and discuss different ways residents can adapt their own gardens to mitigate climate change impacts (see action 4.5)</li> </ul> |
| 5.11                                     | Provide education and outreach to residents about sustainable development approaches, home efficiency, and climate resiliency improvements.   | Ongoing             | ↻             |          |          | In addition to the home energy and resiliency education initiatives outlined in actions 1.6, 1.8, and 5.10, the City also updated its Sustainable Energy, Climate Change, and Rain Gardens webpages with helpful resources and tips to conserve energy and improve climate resilience at home.  |
| <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)   |               | ↻        |          | The City continued increasing canopy as part of infrastructure improvement projects by planting 491 trees and shrubs in 2023 (e.g. as part of stormwater pond projects, at parks, watermain replacements, etc.).  |
| 6.2                                      | Include natural assets, such as trees, woodlands and meadows within the City's Asset Management Program.  | Phase 2 (2022-26)   |               |          | ☑        | In 2023, life cycle strategies, risk and levels of service for natural assets were incorporated into the City's Enterprise Asset Management. This action is now complete.   |
| 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)   |               | ↻        |          | The procurement process to retain a consultant to draft the comprehensive zoning by-law was completed in 2023. The consultant will begin drafting the by-law and consulting with stakeholders in 2024.<br><br>The City continues to ensure applicants use the City's new tree planting and protection standards as part of all scales of development applications.  |
| 6.4                                      | Explore the creation of tree canopy cover targets for different land uses.  | Phase 2-3 (2024-28) |               | ↻        |          | In 2023, the City initiated a benchmarking exercise in partnership with the Environmental Land Management program at Fleming College. This project will provide necessary background information to guide the City's process in using land-use based targets to provide a more equitable distribution of canopy cover across the City.  |
| 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)   |               | ↻        |          | Initiation of the Natural Area Inventory update began in 2023 (e.g. budget approval received, background work completed, Project Charter and Terms of Reference drafted).   |
| 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 continued into 2023 with discussions between stakeholders and GIS.   |

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|           |   |                   | Ongoing   | Underway  | Complete |  |
| 6.8       | Undertake ecological restoration to protect and enhance the City's natural areas.   | Ongoing           |    |   |          | <p>Ecological restoration activities continued at Beaver Woodland, David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) Park (Phase 1 &amp; 2), Elgin Mills Greenway, Phyllis Rawlinson Park and Saigeon Trail in 2023. Phase 3 at DDO Park commenced in August which includes meadow and woodland habitat creation and restoration.</p> <p>In addition, the City continued working with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to restore 4 hectares of meadow within the Oak Ridges Corridor Conservation Reserve. This project began in 2021 and was completed in 2023.</p>  |
| 6.9       | Develop best practices and a public education program for naturalization in City parks.   | Phase 2 (2022-26) |   |  |          | <p>As part of design for the City's Minthorn Park Revitalization project and with grant funding provided by ICLEI Canada, the City incorporated climate adaptation measures, including rain gardens, naturalized areas and increased tree plantings. To support this work, signage has been installed to build community knowledge and understanding on the role these enhanced green infrastructure measures play within the urban context.</p> <p>The City ran a social media campaign educating residents on best practices for a healthy natural yard.</p>   |
| 6.10      | Continue working with partners to deliver the Community Stewardship Program to restore and enhance Richmond Hill's natural environment.                                 | Ongoing           |    |   |          | <p>The Community Stewardship Program (CSP) continued in 2023 with 5.6 hectares of natural areas restored, 9,204 trees and shrubs planted, 24 habitat enhancement structures installed, 131 bags of garbage removed (in addition to the City's Clean Up, Green Up event), 95 stewardship events and 6 webinars hosted. In total, 25 schools, businesses, and community groups, and nearly 1,615 volunteers participated for a total of 3624.5 volunteer hours. The City also received \$102,000 in funding from York Region to aid in the implementation of this program in 2023.</p>   |
| 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           |    |   |          | <p>The Healthy Yards Program continued in 2023. In total, 1,305 trees and shrubs, 3,760 wildflowers, 300 rain barrels and 285 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.</p>   |
| 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           |  |   |          | <p>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. The City held 14 educational webinars and workshops and staff delivered presentations focused on the urban forest at a number of events.</p> <p>Educational materials, including display boards focused on urban and woodland trees, native plants, and invasive plants, a social media campaign, and award-winning videos on the benefits of the urban forest.</p> <p>The City also continued with additional in-person workshops on rain gardens to further the development of resources for residents.</p> |
| 6.13      | Carry out pilot projects for urban forest and natural heritage improvement.   | Ongoing           |  |   |          | <p>In 2023, two Lean improvement projects were completed to streamline the City's tree permitting processes. The first project has helped improve the process for street tree removal as part of development applications (e.g. roles and responsibilities, application process, etc.). A standard operating procedure has been created and the new process will go live in 2024. The second project has helped to reduce the number of submissions it takes for landowners to provide boundary/neighbouring tree consent under the Ontario Forestry Act. As a result, a consent form and FAQ were created and launched in July 2023.</p>  |

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|                         |  |                     | Ongoing       | Underway | Complete                            |  |
| <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) |               |          |                                     | Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated in Phase 2-3.  |
| 7.2                     | In the interim, develop a protocol to guide how the City responds to and manages emerging invasive species.  | Phase 2 (2022-26)   |               |          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Action completed in 2022.  |
| 7.3                     | Continue to implement the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Strategy.   | Ongoing             | ↻             |          |                                     | In 2023, the City removed and replaced 230 ash trees and treated 98 street ash trees due to EAB. The City also continued ecological restoration activities at Beaver Woodland, and Saigeon Trail.<br><br>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 2023, the City continued to manage the impacts of spongy moth. In total, 360 burlap kits were distributed to residents.<br><br>Additionally, two patches (0.09ha) of phragmites were retreated at Phyllis Rawlinson Park. Patches will be reassessed in 2024 for retreatment.<br><br>Four training sessions were held by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council to build staff capacity and knowledge on invasives species identification and maintenance in parks and natural areas. In conjunction with the newly established Invasive Species Response Protocol, the training allows staff to better detect and respond to the emergence of new invasive species in Richmond Hill. |
| 7.5                     | Educate residents about how to monitor for and manage invasive species on their own property and in the community.   | Ongoing             | ↻             |          |                                     | EAB and invasive species education continued by providing the community with information on the City's website and social media, through the delivery of three community presentations, and via the Greening the Hill booth at public events. New display boards were created to educate and engage the community on invasive species at public events.<br><br>As part of the Community Stewardship Program, the City hosted five in-person invasive species management events with community volunteers and 33 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             | ↻             |          |                                     | The Invasive Species Response Protocol came into effect in January 2023, which encourages residents to report their findings of invasive species to EDDMaps, a citizen science monitoring program.<br><br>In addition, the City ran an Invasive Species Awareness Week social media campaign which educates residents on invasive species management, monitoring and citizen science opportunities.  |
| <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 2023.   |
| 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)   | ↻             |          |                                     | As part of the Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) Pedestrian Bridge conceptual design, wildlife connectivity was taken into consideration. The preferred design solution for the bridge uses pillars to aid wildlife movement between the north/south portions of DDO park.<br><br>In addition, bat boxes were installed during construction of West Beaver Creek Pond A in 2023.  |

| Action ID                         | Action  | Timing            | Action Status |          |          | 2023 Progress Update  |
|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|---------------|----------|----------|---|
|                                   |   |                   | Ongoing       | Underway | Complete |   |
| 8.3                               | Explore ways to protect wildlife and their habitats through City operations and maintenance practices.  | Phase 3 (2027-31) | ↻             |          |          | <p>Through the Community Stewardship Program and in partnership with Ontario Streams, 24 in-stream habitat improvements were completed and 133 bags of garbage were removed from our natural areas and streams in 2023.</p> <p>Additionally, rolling curbs were created and signage was installed at Newman Ave to facilitate turtle crossing.</p>  |
| 8.4                               | Explore policies and initiatives to create a more bird-friendly Richmond Hill.  | Ongoing           | ↻             |          |          | <p>In 2023, the City was certified as a Bird Friendly City (BFC). As part of pursuing and maintaining the BFC certification, the City proclaimed World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) on May 13th, 2023, held a WMBD webinar event in partnership with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and initiated the creation of a community-based Richmond Hill Bird Team.</p> <p>The City held four bird-related educational webinars and launched an education campaign on threats to birds, focusing on light pollution, window collisions and outdoor cats. Display boards, pamphlets, and kids' activity sheets for this campaign were rotated throughout libraries and community centres across Richmond Hill.</p> |
| 8.5                               | Educate residents about interactions with and the benefits of local wildlife and biodiversity.  | Ongoing           | ↻             |          |          | <p>In 2023, the City hosted 8 wildlife-related webinars, with nearly 400 participants. General wildlife communications (e.g. to discourage wildlife feeding, living with coyote and beavers etc.) continued in 2023.</p> <p>The City ran an outreach program educating residents on threats to birds, focusing on light pollution, window collisions and outdoor cats. Display boards, pamphlets, and kids' activity sheets were rotated throughout libraries and community centres across Richmond Hill.</p>   |
| 8.6                               | Carry out pilot projects to protect wildlife and enhance habitat using innovative techniques and tools.   | Ongoing           | ↻             |          |          | In 2023, Richmond Hill piloted a unique approach to facilitating wildlife enhancement by installing instream fencing to exclude beavers from damming the Lake Wilcox Weir.  |
| <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           | ↻             |          |          | City staff are working to ensure seed mixes planted through development projects in naturalized areas within Greenway System lands include plants that support pollinators (e.g. Milkweed, New England Aster, Swamp Milkweed, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, etc.).  |
| 9.2                               | Expand pollinator habitat and local food production on City land through planning and infrastructure projects.  | Ongoing           | ↻             |          |          | <p>Town Park Master Plan was approved by Council on June 28, 2023 and includes direction to include a pollinator meadow.</p> <p>The draft Mill Pond Park Revitalization Master Plan was received by Council on December 13, 2023, and includes direction for creating a new feature pollinator garden on the 314 Mill Street lands, as well as a new naturalized meadow habitat in the Stavert Park lands.</p>  |
| 9.3                               | Carry out pilot projects to expand local food production and protect pollinators on public property.  | Ongoing           | ↻             |          |          | Ecological restoration work commenced in 2023 at David Dunlap Observatory Park, which will result in the creation of 1.2 ha of meadow habitat to support pollinators in the community.  |

| Action ID | Action   | Timing            | Action Status   |   |          | 2023 Progress Update  |
|-----------|--|-------------------|---|---|----------|---|
|           |  |                   | Ongoing   | Underway  | Complete |   |
| 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) |   |  |          | At David Dunlap Observatory Park, educational signage has been installed at the various entry points to the meadow area to allow the public to learn about the site. Signage will be updated throughout different creation stages of the meadow restoration project.<br><br>Signage identifying overwinter pollinator habitat was also added to select gardens across the City in 2023.   |
| 9.5       | Develop outdoor education programs with a focus on local food production.  | Phase 2 (2022-26) |   |  |          | In 2023, the City offered two vegetable gardening webinars in the spring for residents.   |
| 9.6       | Seek partnerships with residents and organizations to promote and encourage local food security and production.                              | Ongoing           |    |   |          | The City added two new collective community gardens which feature food production for the local community. In particular, the Kids Right to Know Community Garden located in Spadina Parkette provides weekly donations to local food banks and education to their volunteers.<br><br>The City also joined the York Region Food Council as a partnership opportunity to advance local food issues in Richmond Hill.   |
| 9.7       | Create and expand community gardens in line with the City's Community Garden Policy.   | Ongoing           |    |   |          | The Community Garden Policy was updated to expand the opportunities and locations for gardens across the City; this includes allowing for gardens in alternate outdoor spaces, such as boulevards, right of ways and within traffic islands on a case-by-case basis, pending approval by the City.<br><br>Implementation of the Policy and program continued in 2023 with three new community garden installations, and updates to one existing community garden to host a rain garden.   |
| 9.8       | Participate in partnership programs that promote pollinator protection.  | Ongoing           |    |   |          | In 2023, 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 (16 actions pledged and completed).<br><br>In 2023, the City fulfilled the necessary commitments to become a certified Bird Friendly City, which promotes the protection of pollinators and their habitats.   |
| 9.9       | Encourage residents and businesses to plant pollinator-friendly native plants and naturalize their properties.                               | Ongoing           |  |   |          | Through its Healthy Yards Program (see action 6.11) and the Richmond Hill Blooms Program, the City promoted pollinator friendly gardens and yards by providing educational webinars on native plants, pollinators and home-grown food, as well as subsidized native plant kits available for residents to purchase. An educational in-person event was held through the Richmond Hill Blooms program which hosted booths with gardening experts and environmental professionals.<br><br>The City also ran a social media campaign educating residents on best practices for a healthy natural yard. The rain garden event and related outreach promoted native plants and pollinator habitat on residential properties. |

| Action ID    | Action   | Timing            | Action Status   |   |          | 2023 Progress Update   |
|--------------|--|-------------------|---|---|----------|--|
|              |  |                   | Ongoing   | Underway  | Complete |  |
| <b>Waste</b> |  |                   |   |   |          |  |
| 10.1         | Reduce single-use plastics by carrying out a corporate policy, a public education campaign, and a business engagement program.                                 | Ongoing           |    |   |          | <p>The City's Public Education Campaign continued in 2023 with a dedicated webpage, as well as waste calendar and social media ads focused on increasing awareness of environmental impacts and providing information on minimizing the use of single-use plastics. This work has now transitioned into an on-going action.</p> <p>Corporately, the City provided education and awareness to staff and vendors at City facilities and events. This included in-person engagement with food and beverage vendors at RibFest to assess compliance with policy requirements and identify areas for improvement.</p> <p>In collaboration with the City, York Region established a webpage with resources for businesses to reduce single-use items, including an alternatives guide. In 2023, York Region's Single-Use Innovation Challenge provided funding for non-profits, and other organizations with community-driven approaches to help reduce single-use items. Recipients of the funding provided free virtual coaching sessions to small businesses across York Region to encourage sustainable choices and navigate changing single-use item regulations.</p>   |
| 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) |   |    |          | <p>In 2023, the City continued its efforts to ensure a smooth and fair transition of recycling to producers. This included meeting with the producers and the City's waste contractor to explore transition options. A staff report was presented to Council to update them on the transition and make key decisions. In addition, the Mayor and Council sent out a letter to the Province, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and Producers highlighting the City's concerns related to the transition.</p>  |
| 10.3         | Work to reduce and divert more waste at City events.   | Phase 2 (2022-26) |   |  |          | <p>The City's "Fill it Up" water trailer participated at 35 City, Community and Council-Led events in 2023, serving 80,000+ residents and filling approximately 20,000 reusable water bottles. The City's website continues to promote the trailer and use of reusable water bottles. The City also continues to provide recycling station tents and signage on waste containers continues to encourage the public to properly sort and divert waste at City-led events.</p> <p>Implementation of the City's Single-use Plastics (SUP) Policy has resulted in the elimination of single-use plastics at corporate staff events. Staff continue to educate vendors, contractors, and community third-party organizers on the SUP Policy through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verbiage included in vendor application guidelines</li> <li>• Vendor SUP tracking in the vendor application form</li> <li>• The Event Orientation Package, which includes a dedicated section about the policy and suitable replacements for plastics</li> <li>• Food vendor engagement via on-site surveying at Ribfest</li> <li>• Verbiage built into the Community Festivals and Events Manual and Events Planning Toolkit for community-led events</li> </ul> |
| 10.4         | Reduce and divert waste through waste audits, waste reduction plans, source separation programs and education at applicable City facilities.                   | Ongoing           |  |   |          | <p>The 2023 waste audit at City Hall was completed and found that 72% of the waste generated was diverted from garbage. In addition, 3,615 lbs of batteries were collected at City Facilities and recycled in 2023.</p> <p>In 2023, waste signage was updated in all City Facilities to ensure clarity and consistency. This signage helps residents, staff and visitors correctly identify, sort, and dispose of waste in the appropriate containers.</p>   |

| Action ID | Action   | Timing  | Action Status |          |          | 2023 Progress Update  |
|-----------|--|---------|---------------|----------|----------|---|
|           |  |         | Ongoing       | Underway | Complete |   |
| 10.5      | Carry out pilot projects to reduce and divert waste through innovative techniques, tools and partnerships.                 | Ongoing | 🔄             |          |          | The City continued to promote options for the diversion of batteries, electronics and textile waste in multi-residential buildings.   |
| 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 addition, the City continued its anti-littering campaign which includes 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 2023, the City continued to provide waste education to residents in multi-residential buildings by distributing electronic and hard copy waste management guides to all 15,000 units serviced. In addition, the City added one new building to municipal waste collection services which included delivering an in-person educational event to encourage 3-stream waste diversion.   |
| 10.8      | Promote and support community reuse opportunities to advance the circular economy in Richmond Hill.                        | Ongoing | 🔄             |          |          | The City continued to collaborate with York Region to advance the circular economy and encourage reuse in 2023. Efforts involved promoting the Share Reuse Repair Hub, a community-based virtual hub to educate and engage residents on advancing the circular economy by sharing, reusing, and repairing items. The hub showcased a local business directory and events page, highlighting opportunities such as Repair Cafes at the Central Library and community Curbside Giveaway events. During Circular Economy Month (October), the City actively supported York Region's survey, webinar, and social media campaign, which encouraged residents to share feedback, knowledge, experiences, and ideas to further enhance the circular economy. |
| 10.9      | Undertake events like the City's Clean Up, Green Up Weeks to encourage waste stewardship and reduce litter.                | Ongoing | 🔄             |          |          | In 2023, a record-setting 12,000 residents, community groups, schools, businesses, staff and members of Council participated in the City's Clean Up, Green Up Weeks. Together, volunteers cleaned 145 streets and pathways, and more than 100 parks and open spaces. As a result of this success, Richmond Hill received the 2023 Silver Award for Promotion and Education in the Special Events category from the Municipal Waste Association. This award recognizes our Clean Up, Green Up Weeks program for its creativity and impact on reducing litter and waste.  |