







SRPBS.25.022 Attachment 1: 2024 Environment Strategy Progress Tracker

Action ID	Action	Timing	Action Status			2024 Progress Update
			Ongoing	Underway	Complete	
Energy						
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)				Discussions continue to explore opportunities to incorporate district energy systems, alternative energy systems and/or renewable energy systems in Richmond Hill Centre 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)				Staff continue to review opportunities in forthcoming Official Plan Amendments to incorporate new policies and strengthen existing policies that support climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience as part of the overall process to develop compact and sustainable communities.
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 2024 Corporate Energy Plan prioritizes GHG emissions reductions, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A target of net-zero emissions by 2050 for municipal buildings, which aligns with the Council-approved target and the CEEP.</li><li>• A progressive energy and GHG emissions target that, in alignment with the City's Sustainability Metrics Program, requires all new City facilities with over 500 m2 in floor area to achieve at least a 25% improvement in energy efficiency over Ontario Building Code SB-10, Division 3 (2017) reference building.</li></ul>
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>The City completed five net-zero GHG emissions feasibility studies to understand associated costs and measures to retrofit City facilities to achieve net-zero emissions. These studies informed the new 2024-2029 Corporate Energy Plan (CEP) which was approved by Council in November 2024.</p> <p>CEP progress continued in 2024 with the implementation of energy efficient measures recommended by recommissioning studies completed at five arenas and four indoor swimming pool facilities, mechanical and electrical system upgrades, and a pool filtration system upgrade.</p> <p>The City met its requirement to report annual facility energy consumption and GHG emissions to the Ministry of Energy and Electrification.</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 and community 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)				In 2024, a joint application by the Cities of Markham and Richmond Hill to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Efficiency Financing initiative was conditionally awarded. This grant of \$175,000 will cover up to 80% of eligible costs to support a collaborative feasibility study (with an estimated total cost of \$220,000) to explore options and opportunities for a municipal home energy efficiency retrofit financing program. Further to finalizing the requirements of the FCM grant agreement, the joint feasibility study process is anticipated to begin in 2025.

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1.7	Showcase and pilot projects that reduce GHG emissions through innovative technology and approaches.	Ongoing	↻			<p>In 2024, the City completed a Net-Zero GHG Pathway Feasibility Study for the Connor Building, which is being repurposed into a new Operations Centre satellite building and will be the City’s first net-zero ready facility. Staff are piloting net-zero measures and technologies (such as air tightness mitigation and air-source heat pumps) at the Connor Building to better understand performance, costs, and maintenance requirements, and will use lessons learned to prioritize and select similar measures for other City facilities.The Connor Building design was completed in 2024, with construction scheduled for 2025.</p> <p>Also in 2024, the City completed the installation of 10 type 2 electric vehicle chargers at the Operations Centre to support the City’s fleet of 10 light-duty electric vehicles.</p>
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 2024, 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) webinars, in partnership with the City of Markham, City of Vaughan, Humber College, and Enbridge Gas to educate homeowners on ways to save energy.</li><li>• Launching a one-page ‘What We Heard’ infographic for residents as a follow up to the 2023 Home Energy Improvement Survey.</li><li>• Providing residents with education on heat pumps, electric vehicles, and other sustainable home energy technologies at several community-led and councillor-led events.</li></ul>
Transportation						
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 completed and endorsed by Council. Recommendations will be implemented through the in-progress Comprehensive Zoning By-Law Update.
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>Construction on the David Dunlap Observatory Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge and Recreation Trail continued in 2024. This project received \$3.18 million in grant funding from the Federal Active Transportation Fund in 2023.</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 delivery of the remaining segments of the Lake to Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail</li><li>• the federal government on a planned submission to the Federal Active Transportation Fund (Round 2) for Bantry/Briggs active transportation enhancements.</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 2024 Asset Management Plan. Proposed levels of service considerations for active transportation were assessed in 2024 for incorporation into the City's EAM and Asset Management Plan in 2025.</p> <p>Phase 2 updates to the City’s Standards and Specifications are near completion, anticipated Q2 2025 with significant updates to active transportation standards.</p>








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2.4	Expand and improve Richmond Hill's active transportation network.	Ongoing	↻			2024 active transportation updates include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Oxford-Direzze extension (Priority Spine Trail #6 in the approved Transportation Master Plan) concept was released for public comment.</li><li>• Completion of 500m of the Bethesda Sideroad multi-use path to form part of the Lake to Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail.</li><li>• Implementation of over 6 km of bike lanes through the Traffic Safety and Operations Study traffic calming updates.</li><li>• Completion of the Orlando Flyover with cycling facilities providing an east-west connection over Highway 404 with Markham.</li><li>• Substantial completion for the Bantry/Briggs Active Transportation Improvements Feasibility Study.</li><li>• Design work on the RHDDO CN Overpass, Beaver Woodland South Trail, Elgin East Channel Lands Trail, Jefferson Forest Trail.</li><li>• Trails Repair and Replacement Program (Bathurst Greenway, Stockdale Trail, and the Lake Wilcox Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary accessible ramp).</li></ul>
2.5	Continue the shift to using electricity in place of fossil fuels for the City's fleet vehicles and equipment.	Ongoing	↻			In 2024, the City purchased and installed six additional type 2 chargers at the Operations Centre. The City also purchased ten light-duty electric vehicles for its fleet. The new total of 10 type 2 chargers will be dedicated to these new staff EVs.
2.6	In partnership with other agencies and businesses, research and develop an electric vehicle charging network.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↘		The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy was initiated in 2024 and incorporates both consideration for publicly-provided electric vehicle charge stations, and publicly-provided micromobility charging.
2.7	Explore opportunities to encourage the use of micromobility options, such as e-bikes and e-scooters.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↘		The Micromobility Strategy was initiated in 2024 to address micromobility permissions (including e-bikes and e-scooters), infrastructure requirements, and the potential for a shared micromobility service pilot.
2.8	Continue promoting programs that encourage and educate residents about healthy, active and sustainable ways of travelling.	Ongoing	↻			Education and outreach continued in 2024, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• promotion of Smart Commute workplace program events and initiatives.</li><li>• Bike Valet (a volunteer-run program that promotes cycling by offering a free bike valet service at summer community events).</li></ul>
2.9	Research, monitor trends, showcase and pilot sustainable transportation ideas that use new technology and/or approaches.	Ongoing	↻			In 2024, the City initiated two strategies that support the shift towards low-emissions transportation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Micromobility Strategy will help guide decisions on regulating micromobility devices, sidewalk cycling, and a potential shared micromobility service pilot.</li><li>• The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy will inform the City's approach to providing EV and micromobility charge stations at City-owned facilities, including municipal buildings, parks, community centres, libraries, neighbourhood street parking, and more.</li></ul>
Water Resource Management						
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)				Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.

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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 2024, Council approved a Stormwater Management Financial Plan that will guide the City's stormwater rates and recommends allocation of sufficient funds to cover future capital renewal needs. Council also approved the 2025 stormwater fee, which will increase 50% for all property types, effective April 1, 2025.
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 2024, including: •Garden Ave valleyland rehabilitation •Don Head East valleyland rehabilitation
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 2024.
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 2024.
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 2024.
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	↻			Staff continue to adhere to the City's Salt Management Plan while striving to balance road safety and environmental protection.
3.10	Protect the built and natural environment and improve climate resilience by carrying out the City's Inflow and Infiltration Program.	Ongoing	↻			Staff are working in collaboration with York Region in the continuation of Inflow and Infiltration reduction 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	↻			Staff continued resident education and engagement in 2024, by: • developing a "Build Your Own Rain Garden" public guide and adding it to the City's website. • updating flooding information on the City website, including the addition of the “Home Flood Protection” guide from the Intact Centre on Climate Adaptation. • providing educational ads on stormwater management to Members of Council for inclusion in their newsletters. • encouraging residents to purchase rain barrels and native plants through the annual Healthy Yards program.
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 2024.
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 2024, 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.

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Water Conservation						
4.1	Promote ways to conserve water in the community, including through lawn-watering restrictions.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.
4.2	Promote water conservation and water-efficient technologies in new construction and redevelopment.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.
4.3	Prioritize and act on City responsibilities set out in the York Region Long-Term Water Conservation Strategy.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.
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	↻			Staff engaged residents that had participated in the City's rain garden workshops (2022) and open house (2023) to provide feedback and input on educational resources for rain gardens. In June of 2024, the City completed and released its “Build Your Own Rain Garden! - A Resident Guide” in conjunction with the re-opening of the revitalized Minthorn Park. The guidebook provides step-by-step directions for community members to create rain gardens that conserve and protect water on their properties.
Sustainable Land Development						
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)			☑	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)		↘		In 2024, Council approved the Community Improvement Plan Study for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Design that establishes a financial program to incentivize more affordable and sustainably designed housing. Supported by the Canada and Mortgage Housing Corporation Housing Accelerator Fund, the program applies City-wide to private and non-profit developers that provide a minimum of five affordable rental housing units for a minimum of 25 years and meet, at minimum, the Silver performance level of the City's Sustainability Metrics Program to be considered for funding. This CIP supports the goal of incentivizing new housing/buildings that are designed and operated to reduce emissions over the long-term.
5.3	Showcase examples of innovative design ideas resulting from the Sustainability Metrics Program.	Ongoing				Discussions underway, action on track to begin within Phase 2.
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 2024, Council approved an update to the Corporate Energy Plan, which includes progressive energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions targets for new City facilities (over 500 m <sup>2</sup> ) as well as major retrofits to support the achievement of the City's net-zero emissions target by 2050. The targets and requirements for building energy performance (i.e. 25% improvement in energy efficiency above Ontario Building Code) and solar readiness are aligned with the City's Sustainability Metrics Program. Together with the existing LEED Silver commitment, these standards demonstrate leadership in creating low carbon, energy efficient municipal buildings and facilities.
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 2024, Council approved the City's Asset Management Plan, which includes consideration of climate change as part of the asset management planning approach and Strategic Asset Management Policy.
5.6	Create climate change design briefs for City facilities and other capital structures.	Phase 3 (2027-31)				Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.

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5.7	Seek ways to incorporate sustainable and resilient features into the design and construction of City buildings and other assets.	Ongoing	↻			The City continued to incorporate sustainable and resilient features into facilities and assets, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rain garden installation as part of Bedford Park Avenue reconstruction in Dorothy Price Park</li><li>• roof replacement with improved resilience at Rouge Woods Community Centre</li><li>• HVAC improvements at Bond Lake Arena</li><li>• a multi-phase HVAC replacement project at Central Library was advanced, with expected completion of Phase 1 in 2025</li></ul>
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)		↘		Discussions underway, with action on track to be initiated in Phase 2-3.
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>
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 2024, Richmond Hill continued collaborating 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) webinars, in partnership with Enbridge Gas, Humber College, and the Cities of Markham and Vaughan</li><li>• providing residents with education on heat pumps, electric vehicles, and other sustainable home energy technologies at City, Council, and community-led events</li><li>• creating a public rain garden guide that gives residents step by step instructions on how to create their own rain garden and reduce flooding (see action 4.5).</li><li>• updating City webpages with the most recent federal and provincial information on home retrofit incentives and grants</li></ul>
5.11	Provide education and outreach to residents about sustainable development approaches, home efficiency, and climate resiliency improvements.	Ongoing	↻			See actions 1.8 and 5.10.
Natural Heritage and Urban Forest						
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 292 trees in 2024. Staff added 86 potential spaces to the inventory of vacant plantable spaces for City trees.
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)		↘		<p>The Tree By-laws Review was initiated in 2024 with a public survey in May to obtain input on key directions. The Staff Report outlining Draft Key Directions and Draft By-laws was released to Council and the public for comment in December. The Review process is expected to be completed in 2025.</p> <p>The City continues to ensure applicants use the City's new tree planting and protection standards as part of all scales of development applications.</p>
6.4	Explore the creation of tree canopy cover targets for different land uses.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)		↘		In partnership with Fleming College and its Environmental Land Management program, a benchmarking exercise was completed and further jurisdictional scans were performed in 2024. This project will continue into 2025.







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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)				In 2024 the City hired TRCA to complete a natural area inventory of over 900ha of City owned and managed lands. The seasonal field inventories were completed in 2024 and include flora, fauna (birds, frogs and toads), and invasive plant species. A final report summarizing findings and community/species composition changes will be completed in 2025. Data will support future projects, such as the Natural Heritage Strategy and Prioritization Tool (2025) and Invasive Species Management Plan (2026).
6.7	Improve coordination and management of ecological data between departments, including data obtained from developers.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				The Ecological Data Management project (formerly called the Natural Environment Data Management project), was completed in 2024. Phase 1 (inventory of existing data) and Phase 2 (collection, storage and harmonization of data from developers and consultants) were completed, along with an internal procedural document and updates to the Natural Heritage Evaluation Terms of Reference. Monitoring and evaluation of this procedure will occur in 2025.
6.8	Undertake ecological restoration to protect and enhance the City's natural areas.	Ongoing				Ecological restoration activities continued at Beaver Woodland, DDO Park (Phase 1, 2 and 3), Elgin Mills Greenway, Phyllis Rawlinson Park and Saigeon Trail. Development of an ecological restoration plan for Rouge River Headwaters Valleys and Trail was initiated, with restoration activities planned for 2025.
6.9	Develop best practices and a public education program for naturalization in City parks.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				Background research and jurisdictional scans of existing best practices for naturalization were completed in 2024, to prepare for project initiation in 2025.
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 2024 with 3.6 hectares of natural areas restored, 9,173 trees and shrubs planted, 28 habitat enhancement structures installed, 184 bags of garbage removed (in addition to the City's Clean Up, Green Up event), 89 stewardship events and 6 webinars hosted. In total, 29 schools, businesses, and community groups, and nearly 1,735 volunteers participated for a total of 3845 volunteer hours. \$239,500 was leveraged from CSP partners including LEAF, Ontario Streams and TRCA. The City also received \$102,000 in funding from York Region to aid in the implementation of this program in 2024.
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 2024 with 1,188 trees and shrubs, 3,520 wildflowers, 300 rain barrels and 200 backyard composters sold to Richmond Hill residents. The City also hosted 2 workshops and 1 webinar to educate residents about incorporating native plants on their property. \$12,000 in 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. Staff held 10 educational webinars and workshops, delivered urban forest presentations at events, and used social media and an award-winning short video to promote Richmond Hill's urban forest. In 2024 the City was recognized as a Tree City of the World for the fifth year in a row, and worked with Ontario Nature to identify over 550 ha of public lands to be counted in Canada's commitment to the international 30x30 initiative.

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6.13	Carry out pilot projects for urban forest and natural heritage improvement.	Ongoing	↻			In 2024, a continuous improvement project was completed to educate customers about LEAF services as part of the Tree Permit Replacement Planting Conditions fulfillment process. This project aims to enhance Urban Forest distribution and composition per the recommendations of the 2023 Forest Study by providing an option for residents with Tree Permit replacement planting conditions to consider using LEAF services to fulfill their re-planting obligations. LEAF then recommends options to improve species diversity within that area.
Invasive Species						
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)			☑	Action completed in 2022.
7.3	Continue to implement the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Strategy.	Ongoing	↻			The City marked 67 Ash trees for removal in 2024 and of these trees, 62 were replanted with a variety of resilient species. Ecological restoration activities continued at Beaver Woodland and Saigeon Trail, and an ecological restoration plan for Rouge River Headwaters Valleys and Trail was initiated with restoration activities commencing in 2025. 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	↻			Two patches (0.09ha) of phragmites were retreated at Phyllis Rawlinson Park. Patches will be reassessed in 2025 for retreatment. The City received \$2000 from the Invasive Species Centre's Invasive Species Action Fund Invasive Species for this work.  Also in 2024, the Urban Forest Working Group developed an internal procedure document outlining existing and future actions to prevent the introduction and establishment of Oak Wilt 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 community stewardship events, and via the Greening the Hill booth at public events.  As part of the Community Stewardship Program, the City hosted two in-person invasive species management events where community volunteers helped remove 52 bags of invasive plants.
7.6	Work with partners and leverage citizen/community science tools to monitor and manage invasive species in the community.	Ongoing	↻			Staff continue to utilize the Invasive Species Response Protocol (2023) and encourage residents to report their findings of invasive species to EDDMaPS, a citizen science monitoring program.
Wildlife						
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 2024. The Beaver Management Policy and the Wildlife Conflict Response Procedure were updated.
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)	↻			Wildlife connectivity was incorporated into the Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) Pedestrian Bridge conceptual design. The preferred design solution for the bridge uses pillars to aid wildlife movement between the north/south portions of DDO park. Construction will continue in 2025.



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8.3	Explore ways to protect wildlife and their habitats through City operations and maintenance practices.	Phase 3 (2027-31)	↻			Through the Community Stewardship Program and in partnership with Ontario Streams, 28 in-stream habitat improvements were completed and 184 bags of garbage were removed from our natural areas and streams in 2024. Wildlife crossing signage was installed at Wood Rim Ave., Green Meadow Cres., and Paradelle Dr., and more streets were added to the rolling curb project to facilitate turtle crossing.
8.4	Explore policies and initiatives to create a more bird-friendly Richmond Hill.	Ongoing	↻			<p>In May 2024, Council endorsed mandatory Bird-Safe Design Standards for new private and public buildings in Richmond Hill. All new buildings, including future City facilities, will be required to have bird-safe window treatments in strategic locations, helping birds see the glass and avoid flying into it.</p> <p>On World Migratory Bird Day (May 11th) and in partnership with Richmond Hill Public Library and the Richmond Hill Bird Team, the City held a "Bird and Bug Bonanza" drop-in event celebrating birds and the important role they play in the environment.</p>
8.5	Educate residents about interactions with and the benefits of local wildlife and biodiversity.	Ongoing	↻			<p>The City hosted 5 wildlife-related webinars with 53 participants. General wildlife communications (e.g. to discourage wildlife feeding, living with coyote and beavers, etc.) continued in 2024.</p> <p>Richmond Hill engaged residents about birds by hosting the "Bird and Bug Bonanza" event on World Migratory Bird Day (May 11th), and through a contest to select Richmond Hill's 'Bird Friendly City' bird, which received over 1,500 votes.</p>
8.6	Carry out pilot projects to protect wildlife and enhance habitat using innovative techniques and tools.	Ongoing	↻			<p>Richmond Hill continued to maintain a unique approach to facilitating wildlife enhancement by monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• instream fencing to exclude beavers from damming the Lake Wilcox Weir; and</li><li>• bafflers installed at Phyllis Rawlinson Park to keep water flowing past an active beaver dam while maintaining a small pond.</li></ul>
Local Food and Pollinators						
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	↻			Staff continued to ensure most seed mixes in naturalized areas and Greenway System lands have plants that support monarchs/pollinators.
9.2	Expand pollinator habitat and local food production on City land through planning and infrastructure projects.	Ongoing	↻			On April 10, 2024, Council approved the Mill Pond Park Revitalization Master Plan which includes direction to create a new meadow area in the northern portion of the park to support monarchs/ pollinators. Town Park Master Plan, approved in 2023, directs staff to include a pollinator meadow. In 2024, staff began working on the design assignment to incorporate these requirements.
9.3	Carry out pilot projects to expand local food production and protect pollinators on public property.	Ongoing	↻			Ecological restoration work continued in 2024 at David Dunlap Observatory Park, which will result in the creation of 1.2 ha of meadow habitat to support pollinators in the community. The City received federal funding from ECCC's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk Fund (\$56K, 2023-2025).

Action ID	Action	Timing	Action Status			2024 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)				<p>At David Dunlap Observatory Park, educational signage has been updated at the various entry points to the meadow area to allow the public to learn about the various stages of the meadow restoration project.</p> <p>Staff converted a 30m<sup>2</sup> ornamental garden bed at Patterson Park to a pollinator butterfly habitat garden, eliminating annual ornamentals which require daily watering with water trucks and gas powered pumps.</p>
9.5	Develop outdoor education programs with a focus on local food production.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<p>In spring 2024, the City offered an advice clinic to Community Garden members. Through the City's collective gardens (as part of the Community Garden Program), garden groups such as Kids Right to Know educate volunteers and members about local food production.</p>
9.6	Seek partnerships with residents and organizations to promote and encourage local food security and production.	Ongoing				<p>The City added two new collective gardens in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Green Hills Garden, managed by Urban Farm Initiative, focuses on producing food for donating to local food banks.</li><li>• McConaghy Community Garden, a vegetable and pollinator garden that supports existing City programming operating out of the McConaghy Centre.</li></ul> <p>The City continues to participate in the York Region Food Network's community garden network to discuss community-centred food production in York Region.</p>
9.7	Create and expand community gardens in line with the City's Community Garden Policy.	Ongoing				<p>The Community Garden Program Procedure document was updated to align with Policy updates completed in 2023. Implementation of the Policy and program continued with two new community garden installations, and updates to one existing community garden to host a pollinator garden.</p>
9.8	Participate in partnership programs that promote pollinator protection.	Ongoing				<p>Richmond Hill continued acting on its commitments to protect pollinators through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the Pollinator Partnership (Bee City designation).</li><li>• the National Wildlife Federation Mayor's Monarch Pledge, with 15 actions pledged and completed to gain "Leadership Circle" status.</li><li>• the Bird Friendly City Program (2024 World Migratory Bird Day theme: Protect Insects, Protect Birds).</li></ul>
9.9	Encourage residents and businesses to plant pollinator-friendly native plants and naturalize their properties.	Ongoing				<p>The City continued promoting pollinator-friendly gardens and yards on private properties by providing educational webinars, selling subsidized native plant kits to residents, and celebrating residential stewardship (front-yard recognition) through the Healthy Yards and Richmond Hill Blooms Programs. An educational in-person event under the RH Blooms Program incorporated gardening experts, environmental groups and professionals, and related sustainability information.</p> <p>Richmond Hill received \$5000 in funding from Miller Waste in support of the RH Blooms Program. Staff created a "This Garden Supports Pollinators" sticker to be added onto RH Blooms lawn signs to encourage pollinator habitat creation when gardening.</p>

Action ID	Action	Timing	Action Status			2024 Progress Update
			Ongoing	Underway	Complete	
Waste						
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 Single-Use Plastics (SUP) public education campaign continued in 2024 with the dedicated webpage and waste calendar and social media ads focused on increasing awareness of environmental impacts and minimizing single-use plastics throughout the community. Water bottle fill stations were installed at a number for City facilities to promote reusable water bottles over disposable plastic ones.</p> <p>Corporately, staff promoted the internal "dish library" featuring reusable dishware for events/functions. In 2024, the dish library was used for 17 events.</p> <p>The City continues to promote York Region's SUP initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a ‘share your story’ function on the Region's webpage that encourages businesses to share their SUP reduction measures; and</li><li>• Circular Economy Innovation Fund support to non-profit organizations for innovative community-driven projects that reduce residential waste, including single-use items.</li></ul>
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 2024, the City assessed impacts of the transition on the current waste collection contract and met with the City’s waste contractor to discuss/negotiate cost implications. Staff completed an assessment of the City’s non-eligible sources (i.e. properties that are not eligible for recycling collection from producers as of Jan 1, 2026) and prepared options, costs and recommendations on the non-eligible sources, which will be presented to Council in 2025. A communication campaign is planned for 2025 to raise residents' awareness of the upcoming change.
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 continued to reduce and divert waste in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• used at 38 City, Council, and community-led events</li><li>• served over 85,000 residents</li><li>• filled approximately 25,000 reuseable water bottles</li></ul> <p>Staff continued to provide recycling station tents and signage on waste containers to encourage the public to properly sort and divert waste at City-led events.</p> <p>As well, staff continued to educate vendors, contractors, and community third-party organizers on the Single-Use Plastics Policy through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• vendor application guidelines and Event Orientation Packages, 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>• 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 2024 waste audit at City Hall was completed and found that 72% of the waste generated was diverted from garbage. Additionally, City facilities collected and recycled 4,793 lbs of batteries in 2024 – an increase of 1,178 lbs over 2023.</p> <p>The 2024 curbside waste audit was completed and included auditing of 3-stream waste from 100 homes over a 2-week period.</p>

Action ID	Action	Timing	Action Status			2024 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	↻			<p>Waste education continued through the City’s website, waste calendar, waste app (Recycle Coach), and social media. In 2024, the City updated several key resources including green bin stickers, the multi-residential waste sorting guide for apartments and condominiums, and the door hanger used to address incorrect waste setouts left curbside in front of residential properties.</p> <p>Additionally, the City expanded its anti-littering campaign by creating more signage to be posted at problematic locations where littering or illegal dumping has been reported. Other ongoing tactics of the anti-littering campaign include a dedicated web page, social media posts and waste calendar ads.</p>
10.7	Explore ways to improve waste diversion in multi-residential buildings and encourage diversion in schools.	Ongoing	↻			<p>In 2024, the City continued to provide waste education to residents in multi-residential buildings by updating and distributing a new waste management guide, both electronically and in hard copy (when requested), to all 16,200 units serviced. Over 500 recycling bags were distributed to buildings.</p> <p>The City added three new buildings to municipal waste collection services, and hosted in-person events at these buildigns to distribute waste bins and to promote 3-stream waste diversion.</p> <p>Two re-education events were also held at buildings identified as having lower waste diversion rates, based on audit data from York Region. In total over 1,000 residents participated in these waste education events for multi-residential buildings.</p>
10.8	Promote and support community reuse opportunities to advance the circular economy in Richmond Hill.	Ongoing	↻			<p>In 2024, the City continued to collaborate with York Region to advance the circular economy and encourage reuse. Efforts included promoting the Share Reuse Repair Hub, a community-based virtual platform to educate and engage residents on advancing the circular economy by sharing, reusing, and repairing items. The hub features a local business directory and events page, highlighting opportunities such as Repair Cafes, the Library of Things at the RHPL Central Branch and community Curbside Giveaway events.</p> <p>The City also proclaimed October as Circular Economy Month and launched a social media campaign to raise awareness about the various circular economy programs available to residents in Richmond Hill, along with tips on reducing waste and supporting a circular economy.</p>
10.9	Undertake events like the City’s Clean Up, Green Up Weeks to encourage waste stewardship and reduce litter.	Ongoing	↻			In 2024, over 10,500 residents, community groups, schools, businesses, staff and members of Council participated in the City’s Clean Up, Green Up Weeks initiative. Together, volunteers cleaned 130 streets and pathways, and more than 110 parks and open spaces.