



GREENING THE HILL

Our Community
Our Future

Environment Strategy 2017 Accomplishments

Richmond Hill's Environment Strategy, *Greening the Hill: Our Community, Our Future*, was approved by Council in 2014. Based on community and stakeholder consultation, Greening the Hill outlines Richmond Hill's vision and plan to become a more environmentally sustainable community. This leaflet provides highlights from the annual Environment Strategy update.



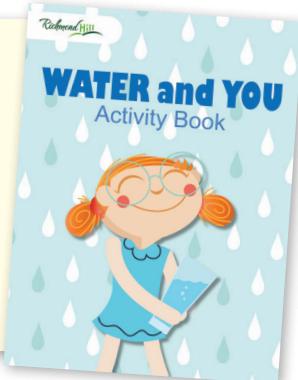
Leading the Energy Efficiency Charge

In 2017, Richmond Hill converted most of its outdoor lighting network from high-pressure sodium (HPS) to light-emitting diode (LED) technology. Because LED lights consume 50 to 60% less energy and last five times longer than HPS bulbs, the Town will significantly reduce energy and maintenance costs and cut greenhouse gas emissions by 300 tonnes per year. That's the equivalent of taking 64 cars off the road.



Educating Our Community

Richmond Hill continued to raise awareness of its water systems and of water as a valuable resource through two new educational tools created by Town staff: a children's Water and You Activity Book and a stormwater education board. Hundreds of local students received the book during the National Public Works Week school tours and many residents engaged with the stormwater board at public events.



A new policy for Community Gardens

The benefits of growing food locally in a shared garden extend far beyond taste and freshness. Community gardens, such as Richmond Hill's popular allotment garden at Phyllis Rawlinson Park, help grow communities themselves – connecting people with their natural environment and with each other. Richmond Hill's first Community Garden Policy, approved by Council in 2017, will guide the development of collective and allotment gardens on public lands.





Preserving and Enhancing our Valleylands

Richmond Hill's commitment to protecting public and private property through effective stormwater and valleyland management continued in 2017 with the design stage of the Elgin Mills Greenway Restoration. The new and upgraded stormwater management infrastructure and public use features will address existing environmental threats while maintaining an overall park effect for residents to enjoy.



Bike Valet at your Service

Cycling to Concerts in the Park and Mill Pond Splash events was once again made easier with the inclusion of our popular bike valet service. Volunteers from Blue Dot Richmond Hill and local high schools provided residents a secure place to leave their bikes while enjoying these summer events.



Restoring Beaver Woodland

The impact of the Emerald Ash Borer has been especially hard on Beaver Woodland, the forested area behind David Hamilton Park. Ash trees made up a significant portion of this forest. In 2017, Richmond Hill began restoration work in the area, including removal of dead ash trees and debris, management of non-native invasive plants, and planting of native trees and shrubs. This work will ensure residents can enjoy a healthy and resilient Beaver Woodland for years to come.



Watch for these environmental projects in 2018!

Progress on Phase 1 actions under the Environment Strategy will continue in 2018 with many noteworthy projects, including:

- Energy pilot projects – pool makeup water, liquid pool cover
- Update to the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan
- Restoration of Elgin Mills Greenway
- Sustainability Metrics Monitoring and Incentives project
- New wildlife public education initiatives



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