






SRPBS.26.009 Attachment 1: 2025 Environment Strategy Progress Tracker







Action ID	Action	Timing	Action Status			2025 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. The concept of district energy is also being discussed as a component of other new development areas being studied and planned in the City.
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 find opportunities to include policies, where appropriate, to support energy planning, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and resilience as part of the updated Official Plan.
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)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The 2024 Corporate Energy Plan (CEP) has established a net-zero GHG emissions target by 2050 for municipal buildings, which aligns with the Council-approved CEEP target. In addition, the Plan requires all new City facilities with over 500 m2 floor area to achieve at least a 25% improvement in energy efficiency over Ontario Building Code SB-10, Division 3 (2017) reference building.
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>Staff continued implementing the 2024 CEP. Energy conservation measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • replacement of heat pumps, makeup air units and humidifiers at Main Municipal Office; • mechanical and electrical system upgrades at Bond Lake and Tom Graham Arenas, and Central Library; • installation of exhaust fans with variable frequency drives at Fire Halls 83 & 84; and • interior lighting retrofit at Elgin West Community Centre. <p>A net-zero GHG emissions feasibility study was completed for Central Library, to help align life-cycle replacement activities with net-zero initiatives for this facility. Staff also selected energy conservation measures (e.g. LED lighting retrofits) from the 2024 CEP that can be bundled in 2026 Capital planned projects and to consider replacing end-of-life equipment with energy-efficient models. As well, the Corporate Energy Team used data for the City's top 15 energy consuming facilities to identify, investigate and take action on abnormal energy consumption.</p> <p>The City met the legislative requirement to report annual facility energy consumption and GHG emissions to Ontario Ministry of Energy and Mines (reported the 2023 and 2024 data in 2025).</p>
1.5	Regularly review and report corporate and community GHG emissions every five years to inform future projects that reduce GHG emissions.	Ongoing				Staff completed the corporate GHG emissions inventory update based on 2024 data. The report compares 2024 emissions to those in the last inventory (2019). Total corporate emissions rose 2.6% in this period, largely from a much higher GHG emission factor for electricity produced in Ontario in 2024 (due to increased use of natural gas in Ontario's electricity generation mix). Despite the small increase in GHG emissions, energy consumption (electricity and natural gas combined) of City buildings was 6% lower in 2024 than in 2019, thanks to conservation measures implemented by the City.
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 2025, the Cities of Markham and Richmond Hill, through support from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Community Efficiency Financing initiative, began conducting a joint Home Energy Retrofit Financing Feasibility Study and Engagement Strategy that will review opportunities for a municipal home energy efficiency retrofit financing program as well as further communication tactics with residents regarding deeper home retrofits. This study and its recommendations are to be completed in 2026.










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1.7	Showcase and pilot projects that reduce GHG emissions through innovative technology and approaches.	Ongoing	🔄			<p>The City completed a feasibility study to install a rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system at Tom Graham Arena, finding that a 320 kW AC solar PV system can be installed with a payback period of 9.6 years (including IESO incentives). This system is expected to offset ~21% of the facility's annual electricity consumption. The project was approved in the 2026 capital budget and is scheduled for design in 2026.</p> <p>Construction of the City's first net-zero ready facility - the Connor Building, which is being repurposed into an Operations Centre satellite building - began in 2025 and is scheduled to be complete by Q4 2026. Staff are piloting net-zero measures and technologies (e.g. 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 upgrading other City facilities.</p> <p>Staff are also exploring solar panel installations for City facilities that are funded upfront by a third party and paid back through savings from the energy cost avoidance generated by the solar panels.</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>Education to support clean and efficient energy use continued and expanded in 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In partnership with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the City offered homeowners free workshops and one-on-one consultations that provide information and advice on energy efficiency upgrades, climate resilience, and cost savings; • In partnership with Enbridge Gas, the City provided residents access to the online MyHEAT portal, to view personalized rooftop heat loss maps and home energy ratings; • Staff launched public awareness activities in support of the Micromobility Strategy; and • Staff promoted heat pump and efficiency rebate programs (e.g., through the Home Renovation Savings Program and IESO Save on Energy initiatives).
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 of the David Dunlap Observatory Pedestrian/Cyclist Bridge advanced significantly in 2025 with expected completion in 2026. 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"> • all levels of government on the delivery of the Yonge North Subway Extension project, with advocacy through Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM); • York Region on delivery of the remaining segments of the Lake to Lake Cycling Route & Walking Trail; • the provincial government on the e-scooter pilot program, for which the City became a participant.
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>Levels of service (LOS), lifecycle strategies and a risk rating framework for active transportation assets were developed, implemented, and documented in the City's 2025 Asset Management Plan. The LOS relate to the connectivity and condition of the Active Transportation Network, both of which promote use of these assets.</p> <p>Significant updates to active transportation standards were included in the City's Phase 2 Standards and Specifications process, which is nearing finalization.</p>

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2.4	Expand and improve Richmond Hill's active transportation network.	Ongoing	🔄			<p>Staff continued construction of a pedestrian/cyclist bridge over the CN Railway to create a vital connection between Yonge Street and the David Dunlop Observatory Park, with completion targeted for June 2026. This project includes development of the entry plaza and parking lot and installation of bridge illumination. Staff also worked to finalize the park's trail system to offer enhanced recreational opportunities for residents.</p> <p>The Rumble Pond South Trail corridor underwent a major revitalization to enhance safety and usability for the community. The project included replacing the asphalt pathway, upgrading bridge crossings, wood stairs, and concrete steps, and stabilizing creek banks to prevent erosion. Additional improvements involved updating lighting, replacing two wooden bridges with boardwalks, and implementing measures to ensure long-term public safety and maintenance efficiency.</p>
2.5	Continue the shift to using electricity in place of fossil fuels for the City's fleet vehicles and equipment.	Ongoing	🔄			No progress in 2025. Additional power supply at the Operations Centre is required to continue shifting the City's fleet to electric.
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, completed and approved in 2025, outlines a plan for the provision of publicly-available electric vehicle charge stations and micromobility charging at key City sites.
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, completed and approved in 2025, updates City permissions for micromobility devices (notably permitting the use of e-scooters in the City as part of the province's e-scooter pilot) and recommends a shared micromobility service pilot.
2.8	Continue promoting programs that encourage and educate residents about healthy, active and sustainable ways of travelling.	Ongoing	🔄			<p>Education and outreach efforts continued and expanded in 2025, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promotion of Smart Commute programs, with continued outreach to local employers and employees to encourage walking, cycling, transit use, carpooling, and other sustainable transportation choices; • delivery and expansion of the Bike Valet program, supporting cycling at a broader range of community events and increasing visibility of cycling as a safe, convenient, and sustainable travel option; and • public awareness in support of the Micromobility Strategy.
2.9	Research, monitor trends, showcase and pilot sustainable transportation ideas that use new technology and/or approaches.	Ongoing	🔄			<p>The City completed two strategies that support the shift towards low-emissions transportation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Micromobility Strategy outlines a new approach to micromobility devices, introducing new micromobility permissions, addressing sidewalk cycling, a potential shared micromobility service pilot, and a substantial focus on public education and awareness. • The Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy will guide the City's provision of EV and micromobility charge stations at City-owned facilities, including municipal buildings, parks, community centres, libraries, and neighbourhood street parking. This includes a potential micromobility charge station pilot project.
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)				<i>Action on track to be initiated in Phase 3.</i>

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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	↻			The City's 2024 Stormwater Management Financial Plan guides stormwater rates and recommends allocation of sufficient funds to cover future capital renewal needs. Based on this plan, in 2025 the City implemented the approved 2025 stormwater rate (a 50% increase for all property types), and Council approved the 2026 stormwater fee which will increase 50% for all property types, effective April 1, 2026.
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 Infrastructure Capital Plan continued in 2025, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newman Pond (2-11) Retrofit; • Driftwood Pond (8-2) Retrofit; • Humber Flats Pond (1-4) Environmental Assessment; and • substantial completion of Verdi Pond (1-1) sediment removal and GM1 valleyland rehabilitation construction projects.
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 2025.
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 2025.
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 2025.
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 to continue 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 and enhanced resident education and engagement by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and updating online stormwater and flood-resilience resources; • Expanding outreach through Council newsletters and community channels, with refreshed educational content focused on stormwater management, flooding preparedness, and climate resilience; • Encouraging (through the annual Healthy Yards program) greater adoption of rain barrels, native plants, and other lot-level actions that help manage stormwater and reduce flood risk; and • Increasing engagement at community events and programs, providing residents with practical information on flood prevention, sustainable landscaping, and climate-ready homes.
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	↻			Staff continued to deliver the Backwater Valve Subsidy Program and to remind residents who have experienced sewer backups of the subsidy program being offered.
3.14	Monitor and enforce existing by-laws (such as the Sewer-use By-law) to reduce hazardous spills on land and water.	Ongoing	↻			City staff continued to monitor and enforce the Sewer-use By-law and inspect and address blockages through the sanitary effluent sampling program.

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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	↻			In 2025, staff continued promoting water conservation and water resource protection by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting the Rain Garden Resident Guide, and using it to support resident inquiries and discussions related to flooding reduction, sustainable landscaping, and climate resilience; and • Educating residents about water conservation through displays and engagement at summer events.
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)		↻		Council approved close to \$20 million in conditional funding to support three purpose-built rental projects through the Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for Affordable Housing and Sustainable Design program (supported by the Canada and Mortgage Housing Corporation Housing Accelerator Fund). Eligible applicants were required to meet a minimum threshold of "Silver" in the City's Sustainability Metrics Program. As such, all projects approved through the CIP have incorporated enhanced sustainable design features that exceed the typical "Bronze" threshold for development applications.
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)		↻		The updated Corporate Energy Plan (2024) includes progressive energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions targets for new City facilities (over 500 m ²) as well as major retrofits to support the achievement of the City's net-zero emissions target by 2050. These targets align with indicators for building energy performance and solar readiness in the City's Sustainability Metrics Program. The City continues to review and explore the opportunity to implement these measures as part of the renovation of existing or the construction of new, low carbon, energy efficient municipal buildings and facilities.






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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)				The 2024 Asset Management Policy commits the City to incorporating climate change considerations into asset management planning. Accordingly, the City's 2025 Asset Management Plan, approved by Council, incorporates a climate change lens. This includes identifying climate hazards that affect assets, tying those hazards to assets and potential asset failure modes, and developing a framework to measure risk related to climate change. The City will continue to advance this work by integrating the risk framework into the Enterprise Asset Management system (an analysis tool) and tying risk logic to asset data, allowing staff to include climate change considerations in asset management analysis and reporting.
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				The City continued to incorporate sustainable and resilient features into facilities and assets, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof replacements with improved resilience at Bayview Hill Community Centre and Centennial Pool; • HVAC improvements at Tom Graham Arena; • Phase 1 HVAC improvements at Central Library; and • Building Automation System software upgrades were completed for 16 facilities, which will improve the operational efficiency of major building systems.
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 2025 staff created a poster advising residents of programs and initiatives that support more sustainable choices. The poster will be distributed to every multi-residential building in early 2026.
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				The City worked with partners to showcase household energy efficiency and resilience through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • free workshops and one-on-one consultations that provide information and advice on energy efficiency upgrades, climate resilience, and cost savings (in partnership with TRCA); • resident access to the online MyHEAT portal, to view personalized rooftop heat loss maps and home energy ratings (in partnership with Enbridge Gas); and • promoting the Rain Garden guide and other stormwater management resources, encouraging residents to take lot-level actions that reduce flooding and improve climate resilience.
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)				Comprehensive Zoning By-law 93-25, approved in Sept. 2025 (appealed to the Ontario Land Tribunal), includes special provisions and development standards to support canopy growth on front and flankage yards and in the Greenway System, City-owned parks, and open spaces, and to ensure future building maintenance does not need to disturb these lands. It also establishes minimum requirements for the provision of soft landscaping.
6.2	Include natural assets, such as trees, woodlands and meadows within the City's Asset Management Program.	Phase 2 (2022-26)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	This action was completed by the City in 2023. The City continues to include natural assets in its asset management planning, analysis and reporting activities, and is planning on further updating its lifecycle, levels of service and risk strategies for these assets within the next 5-years.








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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)				Tree Preservation By-law 19-25 and Trees on City Lands By-law 20-25, approved in April 2025, modernize the City's tree preservation standards with new enforcement options and broader regulation of private trees. Updated Tree Protection Zones and Tree Replacement Planting ratios were also approved at this time. Site Alteration By-law 47-25 was approved in May 2025, combining two permits into one Site Alteration Permit that covers both tree removals/injuries and the associated site alteration. Staff advised applicable individuals and organizations of the City's new tree By-laws.
6.4	Explore the creation of tree canopy cover targets for different land uses.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				Staff continued to explore opportunities and methodologies for increasing canopy cover.
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)				Staff initiated the procurement process for this project, and hired a consultant to begin work in January 2026.
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)				TRCA completed a final report summarizing the changes to the condition and composition of the the City's natural areas in June 2025, and provided a presentation on the findings and recommendations to City staff in the fall of 2025.
6.7	Improve coordination and management of ecological data between departments, including data obtained from developers.	Phase 2-3 (2024-28)				In 2025, staff completed the Ecological Data Management Procedure document and established a new process to receive ecological data from consultants and through the development planning process. Lead staff continue to work with GIS to make ecological data more widely accessible to City staff.
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), Phyllis Rawlinson Park and Saigeon Trail. Ecological restoration activities commenced at Rouge River Headwaters Valleys and Trail. Development of a Phase 4 Ecological Restoration Plan for DDO Park was initiated, with restoration activities planned for 2026.
6.9	Develop best practices and a public education program for naturalization in City parks.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				Building on background research completed in 2024, staff held a kickoff site visit and internal discussions to determine the scope of work for this project.
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 2025 with 3.1 hectares of natural areas restored, 9,637 trees and shrubs planted, 19 habitat enhancement structures installed, 67 bags of garbage removed (in addition to the City's Clean Up, Green Up event), 83 stewardship events and 5 webinars hosted. In total, 22 schools, businesses, and community groups, and nearly 1,709 volunteers participated for a total of 3456 volunteer hours. \$295,200 was leveraged from CSP partners including LEAF (Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests), Ontario Streams and TRCA. The City also received \$102,000 in funding from York Region to aid in the implementation of this program in 2025.
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 2025 with 1,270 trees and shrubs, 2,824 wildflowers, 165 worm castings, 300 rain barrels and 140 backyard composters sold to Richmond Hill residents. The City also hosted 2 workshops about incorporating native plants on their property. \$12,000 in partnership funding was once again provided by York Region.

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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 at public events. Staff held 8 educational webinars and workshops and developed an Urban Forest Education and Engagement Strategy to guide future initiatives.</p> <p>Richmond Hill, in collaboration with TRCA, contributed 550 hectares of environmentally sensitive natural areas towards Canada's 30x30 conservation target, through the Municipal Protected Areas Program. Thirty-one (31) properties, including 429 hectares of City-owned and 121 hectares of TRCA-owned public lands, meet the rigorous national standard for conservation.</p>
6.13	Carry out pilot projects for urban forest and natural heritage improvement.	Ongoing	↻			<p>Through the Tree Permit Replacement Planting Conditions fulfillment process, staff advised applicable residents of the option to use LEAF services to fulfill their re-planting obligations. LEAF then recommends options to improve species diversity within that area.</p> <p>The City worked with TRCA and York Region on a pilot project to determine the effectiveness of halophytic (salt-tolerant) plants in reducing the impacts of road salt, through plantings around Lake Wilcox and around newly planted trees along highly salted major regional roads.</p>
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)				<i>Discussions underway, action on track to be initiated in Phase 2-3.</i>
7.2	In the interim, develop a protocol to guide how the City responds to and manages emerging invasive species.	Phase 2 (2022-26)			☑	Action completed in 2022.
7.3	Continue to implement the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Strategy.	Ongoing	↻			Ecological restoration activities continued at Beaver Woodland and Saigeon Trail. Ecological restoration activities commenced at Rouge River Headwaters Valleys and Trail.
7.4	Carry out pilot projects to plan for and manage invasive species using innovative techniques, tools and best management practices.	Ongoing	↻			<p>Staff treated a large (1.22 ha) phragmites patch with HabitatAqua (the only herbicide product authorized to be used over water) at Rouge River Headwaters Valleys and Trail, marking the first time the City has used this product, and managed phragmites to this extent.</p> <p>The City participated in a study led by the Ministry of Natural Resources to detect the Oak Wilt fungus in Ontario. Richmond Hill staff installed three pheromone traps at an oak dominant forest (Twickenham) to contribute to a better understanding of the detection and presence of Oak Wilt across the province.</p>
7.5	Educate residents about how to monitor for and manage invasive species on their own property and in the community.	Ongoing	↻			<p>Staff provided the community with information about EAB and invasive species through the City's website, social media, community stewardship events, and the Greening the Hill booth at public events.</p> <p>As part of the Community Stewardship Program, the City hosted 7 in-person invasive species management events where community volunteers helped remove 88 bags of invasive plants.</p>

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7.6	Work with partners and leverage citizen/community science tools to monitor and manage invasive species in the community.	Ongoing	↻			Staff continued 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 2025.
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 has been incorporated into the Richmond Hill David Dunlap Observatory (DDO) Pedestrian Bridge project; in 2025 work began on pillars that enable wildlife movement between the north and south sections of DDO Park. The Rumble Pond South Trail Construction included Redside Dace creek enhancements and bat box installations. As part of the NHS Scope of Work, staff are looking to identify opportunities to improve wildlife connectivity throughout the Greenway System.
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, 19 in-stream habitat improvements were completed and 67 bags of garbage were removed from natural areas and streams. Wildlife crossing signage was installed at North Lake Rd., Parker Ave. and Newman Ave. Cut curbs and asphalt ramps were installed along North Lake Rd. to facilitate turtle crossing. The City began working with Turtle Guardians "Oak Ridges Turtles" chapter to install turtle nest boxes at select sites.
8.4	Explore policies and initiatives to create a more bird-friendly Richmond Hill.	Ongoing	↻			<p>The City, in partnership with the Richmond Hill Public Library (RHPL) and Bird Friendly Richmond Hill, hosted "Bird Friendly Festival: Sharing Spaces" on May 3 in recognition of World Migratory Bird Day. The festival included educational booths, hands-on learning tools, arts and crafts, demonstrations, and a scavenger hunt. Programming focused on bird protection, native bird species, Indigenous knowledge, and the interconnections between built and natural environments.</p> <p>City staff continued to work in partnership with RHPL and Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP) to document bird-window collisions at Central Branch, and have conducted bird-collisions hazard audits at the Main Municipal Offices to help identify priority areas for future retrofits at City facilities.</p> <p>As part of the Site Plan approval process, staff identified which proposals require bird-safe design treatments during Development Application Review Committee (DARC) meetings to ensure applicants are aware of requirements at the initial stages of the process.</p>
8.5	Educate residents about interactions with and the benefits of local wildlife and biodiversity.	Ongoing	↻			General wildlife communications (e.g. to discourage wildlife feeding, living with coyote and beavers, etc.) continued in 2025. The City hosted 2 wildlife-related webinars, an Introduction to Birds workshop in March, and the Bird Friendly Festival: Sharing Spaces in May.

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8.6	Carry out pilot projects to protect wildlife and enhance habitat using innovative techniques and tools.	Ongoing	↻			Richmond Hill continued to maintain a unique approach to facilitating wildlife enhancement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitored instream fencing to exclude beavers from damming the Lake Wilcox Weir; • monitored bafflers installed at Phyllis Rawlinson Park to keep water flowing past an active beaver dam while maintaining a small pond; • installed curb modifications along North Lake Road and Newman Avenue to facilitate turtle crossing; and • installed turtle nest boxes at select sites to protect turtles from predation.
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	↻			A pollinator garden was included in the construction of Bayview Hill Park. In March 2025, Council approved the Dave Barrow Civic Square Park Plan, which includes direction to create tall fescue meadow and native pollinator meadow areas.
9.3	Carry out pilot projects to expand local food production and protect pollinators on public property.	Ongoing	↻			Ecological meadow restoration/creation (1.2 ha) work continued in 2025 at David Dunlap Observatory Park.
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)		↻		Richmond Hill worked in partnership with Miskwaadesi Studio to install five Indigenous medicine gardens throughout the city to create a network of living classrooms and cultural gathering spaces and to help increase local access to Indigenous medicines. The gardens are planted with a combination of sweet grass ("Wiingashk" in Anishinaabemowin) and prairie sage ("Mashkodewashk" in Anishinaabemowin), which are known for their cleansing power and spiritual energy and also act as pollinators. The harvest from these gardens will be respectfully gathered and shared with the community by Miskwaadesi Studio.
9.5	Develop outdoor education programs with a focus on local food production.	Phase 2 (2022-26)		↻		Through the City's collective gardens (as part of the Community Garden Program), garden groups such as Kids Right to Know educated volunteers and members about local food production.
9.6	Seek partnerships with residents and organizations to promote and encourage local food security and production.	Ongoing	↻			The City added one collective garden in 2025: Strong Towns Richmond Hill, managed by a community group, focuses on producing food for donating to local food banks. The City continued to participate in the York Region Food Network (YRFN) food policy council and community garden working group to discuss community-centred food security and production. In June, Council approved SRPBS.25.051, endorsing the YRFN Food Charter Action Document. Also in June, staff worked with the Mayor's office to host a local food-themed Speaker Series event. In October, Council passed a motion to promote a more plant-based food approach.

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			Ongoing	Underway	Complete	
9.7	Create and expand community gardens in line with the City's Community Garden Policy.	Ongoing				Implementation of the Community Garden Policy and Program continued with two new community garden installations and updates to one existing community garden for expansion.
9.8	Participate in partnership programs that promote pollinator protection.	Ongoing				Richmond Hill continued acting on its commitments to protect pollinators through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Pollinator Partnership (Bee City designation); • the National Wildlife Federation Mayor's Monarch Pledge, with 17 actions pledged and completed to maintain "Leadership Circle" status; and • the Bird Friendly City Program (2025 World Migratory Bird Day theme: Shared Spaced).
9.9	Encourage residents and businesses to plant pollinator-friendly native plants and naturalize their properties.	Ongoing				The City continued promoting pollinator-friendly gardens and yards on private properties by providing educational webinars, distributing native seeds to residents at local events, 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. The program received \$1000 in funding from Miller Waste, helping staff continue to create and add "This Garden Supports Pollinators" stickers to RH Blooms lawn signs to encourage pollinator habitat on private lands.
Waste						
10.1	Reduce single-use plastics by carrying out a corporate policy, a public education campaign, and a business engagement program.	Ongoing				The City's Single-Use Plastics (SUP) public education campaign continued in 2025 with information on the City's dedicated webpage, Waste Calendar, and social media ads focused on environmental impacts of SUP and how to minimize them in our community. <p>Corporately, staff promoted and used the internal "dish library" which provides reusable dishware for events and functions. In 2025, the dish library was used for 29 events, helping prevent the disposal of approximately 849 plates, 1,247 cups/mugs and 2,317 pieces of cutlery - items that likely would have been plastic, used once, and disposed as garbage. A second dish library will be added in 2026.</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)				Council provided direction to amend Richmond Hill's contract with Miller Waste to reflect the Blue Box transition. Staff conducted an extensive public communications campaign, and worked with Miller to ensure all collection sources will be serviced and to ensure a smooth transition for residents. <p>Staff monitored non-eligible sources (i.e. properties that are not eligible for recycling collection from producers as of January 1, 2026), and developed an invoicing process to apply the new waste management fee to BIA businesses in 2026. Staff advised all non-eligible sources of the changes, and also provided comments on proposed amendments to the Blue Box regulation and engaged in advocacy efforts to ensure municipal interests were respresented.</p>

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			Ongoing	Underway	Complete	
10.3	Work to reduce and divert more waste at City events.	Phase 2 (2022-26)				<p>Staff continued to promote and enable waste reduction and diversion at City events, in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the "Fill it Up" water trailer was used at 39 City, Council, and Community-led events, serving over 90,000 residents who filled approximately 25,000 reuseable water bottles; • Strategic placement of recycling stations and signage on waste containers helped proper sorting, reduced cross-contamination and increased diversion; • Staff working at events were trained to guide patrons in proper waste sorting and diversion; • Vendor application guidelines, Event Orientation Packages, Community Festivals and Events Manual and Events Planning Toolkit contain guidance around the City's Single-Use Plastics (SUP) policy; and • A "dish library" was used by staff to help reduce SUP at smaller events (see Action 10.1 for details).
10.4	Reduce and divert waste through waste audits, waste reduction plans, source separation programs and education at applicable City facilities.	Ongoing				The 2025 waste audit at City Hall was completed and found that 74% of the waste generated was diverted from the garbage stream - a 2% increase from the previous year. City facilities collected and recycled 5,182 lbs of batteries in 2025, an 8% rise compared to 2024.
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 in 2025 through the City's website, waste calendar, waste app (Recycle Coach), and social media. The City ran a Blue Box Transition public education campaign, which included road and facility signage, digital ads (website, social media, geo-targeted multilingual ads), a Public Service Announcement, and information in the myRichmondHill newsletter and the 2026 Waste Management Calendar. Specifically, the Calendar features two pages of recycling information developed with Circular Materials (the organization now responsible for Ontario's recycling program), highlighting Blue Box program changes such as newly accepted materials and new customer service information.</p> <p>The City continued its anti-littering campaign by posting signage and monitoring problematic locations for littering and illegal dumping. Other ongoing tactics include a dedicated web page, social media posts and ad in the waste calendar. To reduce ad mail litter, the 2026 Waste Calendar included an insert with detachable "No Ad Mail" stickers for residents, in line with Canada Post's Consumers' Choice Program.</p>
10.7	Explore ways to improve waste diversion in multi-residential buildings and encourage diversion in schools.	Ongoing				In 2025, the City added three new buildings to municipal waste collection services, and hosted in-person events at these buildings to distribute waste bins and to promote 3-stream waste diversion. A total of 493 residential units were engaged at these launch events. The City also continued to provide hard-copy posters and waste sorting guides upon request for resident education.
10.8	Promote and support community reuse opportunities to advance the circular economy in Richmond Hill.	Ongoing				<p>In 2025, the City continued collaborating with York Region to advance the circular economy and encourage reuse. Key efforts included promoting the Share, Reuse, Repair Hub, a virtual platform that educates and engages residents. 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. A dedicated Waste Calendar ad also promoted these initiatives.</p> <p>The City proclaimed October as Circular Economy Month and launched a social media campaign to raise awareness on available circular economy programs and to share waste reduction tips.</p>
10.9	Undertake events like the City's Clean Up, Green Up Weeks to encourage waste stewardship and reduce litter.	Ongoing				In 2025, over 10,800 residents, community groups, schools, businesses, staff and members of Council participated in the City's Clean Up, Green Up Weeks initiative. Together, volunteers cleaned 110 streets and pathways, and more than 85 parks and open spaces.