



Trees for Tomorrow Program Three Year Plan 2019 - 2021





Trees For Tomorrow Program Goals

- 1. Increase Markham's tree canopy to realize 30% tree canopy goal**
 - Restore forest cover in natural areas of parks and open spaces with community volunteers and NGO partners (10,000 Trees for the Rouge, Friends of the Rouge Watershed, Tree Canada, Forests Ontario and others), strategic planting of caliper trees in other park areas
 - Interdepartmental collaboration with Urban Design to plant trees in natural park areas with compensation funds
- 2. Foster existing and create new partnership opportunities to plant and care for trees**
 - Continue building existing planting partnerships such as Tree Canada, NGO Partners to maximize annual planting capacity
 - Maintain and increase existing volunteer roster to focus on post planting stewardship activity to optimize planting success
- 3. Educate and engage public to plant and care for trees on private property**
 - Promote LEAF's Backyard Tree Planting Program and other community engagement opportunities (e.g. Neighbourhoods) through increased presence and program profile at community events, park openings, etc.



Large Scale NGO Events





Our Mission - 30% Canopy Cover

- Since launch in 2007, the program has helped to see more than 460,000 trees planted in Markham
- Majority of trees planted in natural areas to restore forest cover and habitat for wildlife
- Between 2009 and 2015, Markham's woodland cover has increased from 6.2% to 7.3%, representing an increase of more than 240 hectares of woodland cover
- The Region of York expects to update municipal canopy cover stats by Q1 of 2021.





Success Through Our Partnerships

Partnerships

- Effective partnerships have increased program capacity, efficiency and profile with an expanding the network of volunteer participants, corporate sponsors and social media platforms
- Partner support has made some fall infill planting possible to enhance program resiliency

Community Engagement

- In 2019, more than 750 volunteers performed in excess of 1700 hours of stewardship work, such as mulching young trees and removing invasive plant species





Public Education and Engagement

Planting Trees on Private Property

- Canopy goals cannot be met without planting more trees on residential properties
- Outside of agricultural lands, low density residential property represents the largest area of potential additional tree canopy in the City
- Program presence at community events to promote public awareness of the importance and of planting trees and how to care for them, increasing uptake in LEAF' Backyard Tree Planting Program, a subsidized, full service planting program for all residents





Looking Forward: Challenges and Opportunities

- Although the programs plans for 2020 were largely derailed by the pandemic, COVID-19 also reminds us of how essential trees and our natural areas are to our own health and well being
- The network of partners and community volunteers that have come together to support the Trees for Tomorrow Program will help to ensure a quick return to planting more trees in Markham in order to enhance the health and extent of our Urban Forest
- At the local level, Markham's Trees for Tomorrow Program has and will continue to help mitigate some of the impacts of the twin threats of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss that we continue to work towards offsetting in order to ensure a greener, healthier and sustainable future for the City and its residents



Thank you



Questions