

Appendix D: Priority short-term actions recommended for implementation

Management Actions	Description
Incorporate Natural Heritage Management Study findings and recommendations in corporate plans and strategies, as appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize results and recommendations of the Natural Heritage Management Study to inform updates to the City’s Asset Management Plan and Official Plan. • To be completed in-house.
Control invasive species (pilot projects)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority sites have been identified where the City can undertake targeted invasive species management as pilot projects to build staff expertise and to test control methods at a small scale. • To be completed by contractors. Can be funded through cash-in-lieu of tree/woodlot removals where sites are suitable for future reforestation.
Undertake understorey planting in woodlots and plantations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City has been supporting understorey planting at the Grandview Woodlot in Thornhill and would extend this work to other woodlands across the City. Small plants would be planted in select wooded areas to increase plant diversity and support natural regeneration • To be completed by contractors. Can be funded through cash-in-lieu of tree/woodlot removals.
Continue developing inventory of restoration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a GIS database to document and rank future restoration projects including expansion of natural areas and buffer zones. Restoration projects are currently identified through ad-hoc processes. • To be completed in-house
Develop standard planting and seeding specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize planting lists and seed mixes for use by contractors when undertaking restoration work in the City’s natural areas. This includes requirements for locally sourced/grown plant stock. • To be completed in-house
Implement an Early Detection and Rapid Response strategy for invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a protocol to identify and triage new observations of invasive species before they establish and spread. It is most cost-effective to control invasive species at this stage. • To be completed in-house
Actively seek out grants and funding opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of grants are available for invasive species management and natural area enhancements. • To be completed in-house