



BUILDING MARKHAM'S
FUTURE TOGETHER
2015-2019 Strategic Plan



MARKHAM TREES *for* TOMORROW



BEGINNINGS



“During the next four years, we will plant more trees than we have planted in the last decade, making Markham a greener and better place to live and work.”

**Mayor Frank Scarpitti,
December 5, 2006**



TREE PLANTING TARGET – PHASE 1

Planting target from
2007 to 2010:
75,000 trees

Results:
155,491 trees



PLANTING CONTEXTS

- Large scale restoration planting – Rouge Park
- Smaller scale plantings – natural areas in parks
- Residential properties – LEAF's subsidized Backyard Tree Planting Program





TREE PLANTING TARGET – PHASE 2



Tree planting target
from 2011 to 2014:

90,000 trees

Results:

151,910 trees

PROGRAM STRENGTHS & BROADER OBJECTIVES

- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT** – in 2017, more than 3,100 volunteers and 6,400 hours
- **PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES** – in 2017, 6 NGO's, TRCA, York Region, MOECC, 8 Corporations and 20 + Community groups
- **EDUCATION/AWARENESS** – Invasive species technical working group; urban forest study (2012; 2019) Need to educate public on importance and impact of program

LONG-TERM BENEFITS:

- Growing numbers of committed volunteers of all ages
- Information sharing/ transfer with network of external colleagues on wide range of current / future threats to the urban forest (early detection facilitates rapid response and potential mitigation)
- Urban Forest Study (2012) – provided baseline data such as canopy cover (18%), species composition and age class distribution to inform and direct strategic Urban Forest Management planning

VALUE OF STEWARDSHIP

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Community building and social cohesion
- Meaningful volunteer experience with learning component
- Significant increase in early establishment, rate of survival and commencement of growth of young trees
- Increase rate of ecological services provided from enhanced success/ growth of young trees



STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERS





ENSURING PLANTING SUCCESS

2009



2015



PHASE 3 – ADAPTING PROGRAM TO MEET CHALLENGES

2014 – 2018 SHIFTING FOCUS TO MARKHAM LANDS

- Establishment of Rouge National Urban Park – cessation of planting during land transfer negotiations (2013 – 14)
- Limited planting sites of large scale on City lands
- Collaborative efforts of TRCA and Operations staff enable continuation of 10,000 Trees for the Rouge annual habitat restoration planting events
- Annual tree planting numbers for three year period between 2014 and 2016 fall by more than 30% relative to any previous consecutive 3 year period, due to suspension of Rouge Park plantings
- Resumption of planting work in RNUP in 2015 bolsters Phase 3 planting numbers in 2017, at reduced annual rate due to scaling down to smaller sites

PHASE 3 – PROGRAM SUMMARY

10,000 Trees – Annual Restoration Planting:
April 26, 2015



TREE CANADA PLANTING EVENTS

Tree Canada and **Corporate Sponsors** provide trees and volunteer planting teams such as this event at Highgate Park with Johnson and Johnson.



TREE CANADA PLANTINGS

- **7** planting events since 2015
- More than **1,600** trees planted
- Value of trees planted: more than **\$22,000**
- Markham selected as Tree Canada National Day for National Tree Day Celebration Planting for GTA on Wednesday, September 26,
- **2** spring plantings: April 24 and May 8, both infill plantings at Princess Street site



POMONA MILLS PARK – ONTARIO COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT FUND GRANT 2017



- City awarded **OCEF Grant for Pomona Mills Park** restoration planting
- Grant provided **\$11,845 for 600 native trees and 300 native shrubs**

CANADA 150 PLANTINGS

- 150 trees in 150 parks
- Donation of 15 trees for Highway of Heroes Living Legacy
- 150 trees planted in Carmen Lewis Park—100th Anniversary of Markham Lions Club



2018 SAKURA PLANTING

DONATION OF 65 JAPANESE FLOWERING CHERRY– SAKURA TREES GENEROUSLY DONATED BY:

- Members of the Ebisu Rotary Club in Tokyo, Japan
- Toronto Sakura Project Organization through Mr. James Matsumoto and Mrs. Chenko Setoyama
- Consul General of Japan in Toronto, Ms. Takako Ito; Deputy Consul—General, Mr. Tetsuya Yoshimoto and Michael Gaade, Political Aide
- Mitsubishi Electric Sales Canada Inc.

THESE ICONIC SPRING FLOWERING TREES ARE TO BE AT THREE FOCAL DESTINATION SITES:

- Markham Civic Centre/ Anthony Roman Centre
- Milne Dam Conservation Park
- Newly Opened Park – South of Intersection of Birchmount Road and Rouge Side Promenade

The Trees for Tomorrow Program is to support site preparation, supplemental trees to augment design intent and ongoing maintenance post planting.

CONCLUSION

- To date, **389,147 trees** were planted by the end of 2017, more than 1 tree for every resident of Markham
- Staff working on increasing inventory of identified, priority planting sites throughout Markham's Park system
- Continue to build volunteer base for planting, stewardship and outreach events

MEASUREABLE SUCCESS

- Since 2009, Markham's Woodland Cover has increased by 156 hectares (second highest increase of Region's Municipalities)
- Between 2010 and 2015, Markham's Tree Canopy Cover has increased from 18% to more than 19% (2019 reassessment will help determine level of offset after completed cycle of canopy loss due to EAB)

NEXT STEPS

2018 PLANTING AGENDA

- April 22 - 10,000 trees at Austin Drive Park
- April 24 - Tree Canada/ Siemens – Princess Street infill site
- May 8 - Tree Canada/ Shaw – Princess Street infill site
- May 13 - Divine Creations Volunteers – Beaupre Park
- May 19 - Tamil Community Association – Fairtree Pond
- Fall 2018 - TRCA Community Planting – German Mills Meadow
- September 26 - Tree Canada National Tree Day Celebration Planting – Princess Street infill site

PROTECTING OUR INVESTMENT

STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

- May 23 – Austin Drive Park – 240 students from Father Michael McGivney CHS
- June 6 – Princess Street infill sites – GE follow-up mulching/watering of Tree Canada Spring Plantings
- June 23 – Milne Park – Nielsens – mulching park trees and Tree Canada 2017 Plantings
- June 25 – Highgate Park – Johnson and Johnson Stewardship of 2016 tree planting site
- Multiple other events throughout summer and fall 2018

MOVING FORWARD

- Development of 3 year program plan
- Enhanced Subsidized Residential Tree Planting Program – Enhanced Backyard Tree Planting Program, specific to Markham through partnership with Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests (LEAF) – offset for canopy loss due to EAB and recent severe weather events in residential areas
- Focus on opportunities to promote wellness and healthy neighbourhoods by planting trees
- Continue to promote public education about the benefits, value and importance of enhancing our Urban Forest



THANK YOU

QUESTIONS?