

Our Environment Strategy, *Greening the Hill: Our Community, Our Future*, outlines our vision and plan to become a more environmentally sustainable community. Here are some key highlights from 2025:

LEADERSHIP

- Incorporated climate change risks and considerations into our Asset Management Plan, to help ensure our infrastructure and services can handle future climate impacts.
- Installed five Indigenous medicine gardens throughout the city in partnership with Miskwaadesi Studio, to increase community awareness of and access to these resources.
- Hosted the Urban Economy Forum UEF7 conference, bringing together local and international experts to discuss sustainable development.



PARTNERSHIPS

- Engaged staff and residents with sustainability education sessions in partnership with UN University - Institute of Water, Environment, and Health.
- Worked with Richmond Hill Public Library and Bird Friendly Richmond Hill to host “Bird Friendly Festival: Sharing Spaces”, helping residents learn about the important role of birds in our community.
- In partnership with Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, delivered two workshops and 11 one-on-one consultations that teach residents about energy efficiency and conservation options for their homes.

COMMUNITY

- Helped community members cut down on waste and single-use plastics by providing our Fill It Up water trailer at large events and by offering staff reusable dishes for small events.
- Coordinated our annual Clean Up, Green Up Weeks initiative, with over 10,000 participants picking up litter from neighbourhoods and parks.
- Hosted garden sales, workshops, tree plantings, and Earth Day events to celebrate and protect our natural environment.



INNOVATION

- Supported the creation of new affordable housing that includes sustainable design features, through an innovative Community Improvement Plan (CIP).
- Modernized our zoning, bylaws and tree-permit system to boost canopy growth and safeguard the trees we love.
- Made simple and inexpensive changes to road curbs near Lake Wilcox to help nesting turtles safely cross the street.

Working together to protect, enhance and restore our local environment

Community Stewardship Program



1,709

Community volunteers

9,637

Trees planted

4.6 ha

Area restored

Healthy Yards Program



1,270

Trees distributed

2,824

Wildflowers distributed

300

Rain barrels distributed

140

Composters distributed

City Tree Care Program



1,861

Trees planted