

## **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – JANUARY 26, 2010**

### **PARKS AND FORESTRY OPERATIONS – WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

#### **Recommendation**

The Commissioner of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Parks and Forestry Operations recommends:

- 1) That the presentation by the Parks and Forestry Operations Department titled “Working Towards a Sustainable Future” be received; and,
- 2) That the attached report be received as information.

#### **Contribution to Sustainability**

The initiatives outlined in the presentation support the priorities previously set by Council in the Green Directions Vaughan, Community Sustainability Environmental Master Park Plan, specifically:

- Goal 2, Objective 2.2: To develop Vaughan as a City with maximum green space and an urban form that supports our expected population growth; and,
- Goal 5, Objective 5.1: To share sustainable best practices and ideas between and among municipal staff and the community; and,
- Goal 6, Objective 6.1: To fully support the implementation of Green Directions at all levels of City Operations.

#### **Economic Impact**

There is no economic impact associated with this report.

#### **Communications Plan**

The promotion of the Parks and Forestry Operations work plan will include the City website, brochures, media releases, flyers and our community partners.

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to advise Council of the status of the ongoing Parks and Forestry Operations sustainability initiatives.

#### **Background - Analysis and Options**

Council approved the “Green Directions” Vaughan Community and Environmental Master Plan on April 14, 2009. Green Directions is a component of *Vaughan Tomorrow*, the City’s comprehensive growth management plan. *Vaughan Tomorrow* is mandated by *Vaughan Vision 2020* which includes the preparation of a new official plan and a series of master plans that address the delivery of services and infrastructure.

Objective 2.2 of the Green Directions document states that Vaughan will be developed as a City with maximum greenspace and an urban form that supports our expected population growth and will *Undertake an Urban Forest Strategic Plan that will identify targets for the urban forest in the City and provide strategies for achieving it including planning, maintenance, species and planting recommendations.* The Parks and Forestry Operations Department is responsible for implementing this objective. This is demonstrated through initiatives such as Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) and implementation of the LEAF program in Vaughan, as well as continuing with the tree dedication program.

The report will further highlight accomplishments by the Parks and Forestry Operations Department such as Greening Vaughan Environmental Days, Private Tree Bylaw, recycling in parks and efficient ways to reduce water consumption as reservoir baskets and rain gauges.

### **Relationship to Vaughan Vision 2020 / Strategic Plan**

In consideration of the strategic priorities related to Vaughan Vision 2020, the initiatives included in this report demonstrate:

- **STRATEGIC GOAL:**  
Service Excellence - Providing service excellence to citizens.
- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:**  
Pursue Excellence in Service Delivery; Enhance and Ensure Community Safety, Health and Wellness - To deliver high quality services and to promote health and wellness through design and program; and, Lead and Promote environmental sustainability.

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council.

### **Regional Implications**

The City of Vaughan is partnering with the Region of York through the UFORE study of urban canopy.

### **Conclusion**

This report is provided for the information of Council.

### **Attachments**

Not Applicable.

### **Report prepared by:**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Commissioner of Community Services