



Forest Management Plan

Presentation to
Committee of the Whole
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Presentation Purpose

- Why York Region needs this Plan
- Why canopy cover and woodland cover
- Forest Management Plan vision
- Goals and targets
- Putting the plan into action

**Investment in green infrastructure
advances multiple Council goals**



Why we need the Plan

- Regional Official Plan policy – woodland cover target 25% by 2031
- Existing 23% to reach 25% requires a net gain of 200+ hectares of forest each year
- Greening plants 25-50 hectares per year – leveraging our partnerships helps narrow the gap
- Canopy cover emerging as effective metric for quantifying value and benefits of trees

Canopy cover... every tree counts



Canopy Cover and Woodland Cover Defined

Canopy cover - the area of ground covered by tree leaf canopy as seen from overhead (calculated in hectares or land base percentage)

Woodland cover - sum of all woodland areas greater than 0.2 hectares (calculated in hectares or land base percentage)

CANOPY COVER = EVERY TREE

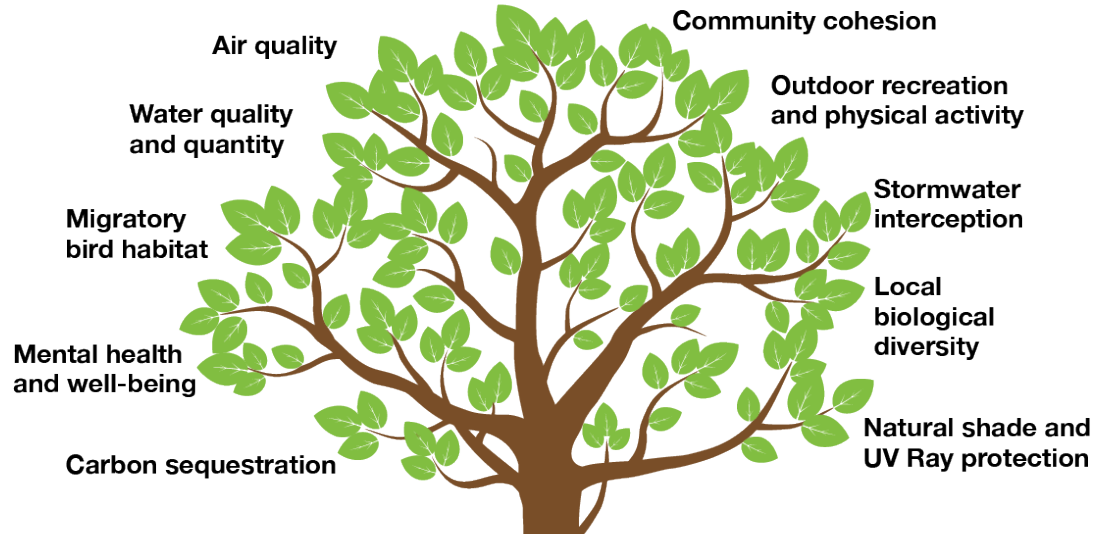


Plan recognizes the value of all trees and woodlands

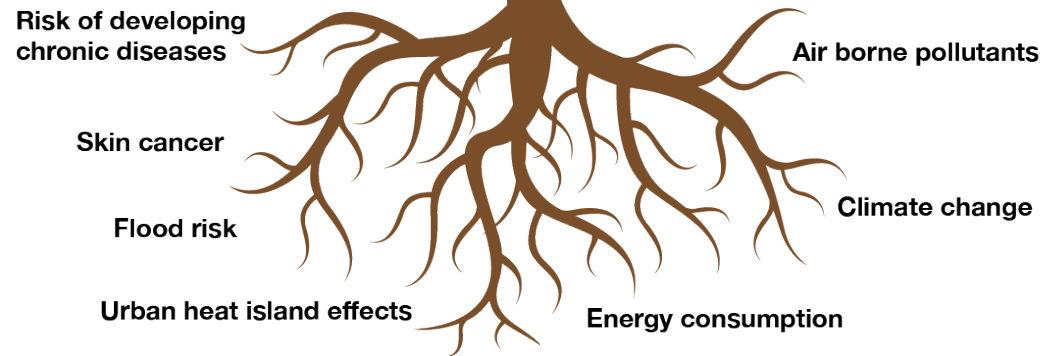
Forest Management Plan VISION

Healthy trees and diverse, sustainable forest ecosystems that support the well-being and quality of life of residents and communities.

TREES IMPROVE:



TREES REDUCE:



Forest Management Plan Goals



INCREASE

Canopy cover to 35% - 40% and woodland cover to 25%



MANAGE

Biodiversity and minimize impact of climate change



INCREASE

Public awareness and appreciation of value of trees and woodlands



INCREASE

Stewardship of trees and woodlands



SUSTAINABLY MANAGE

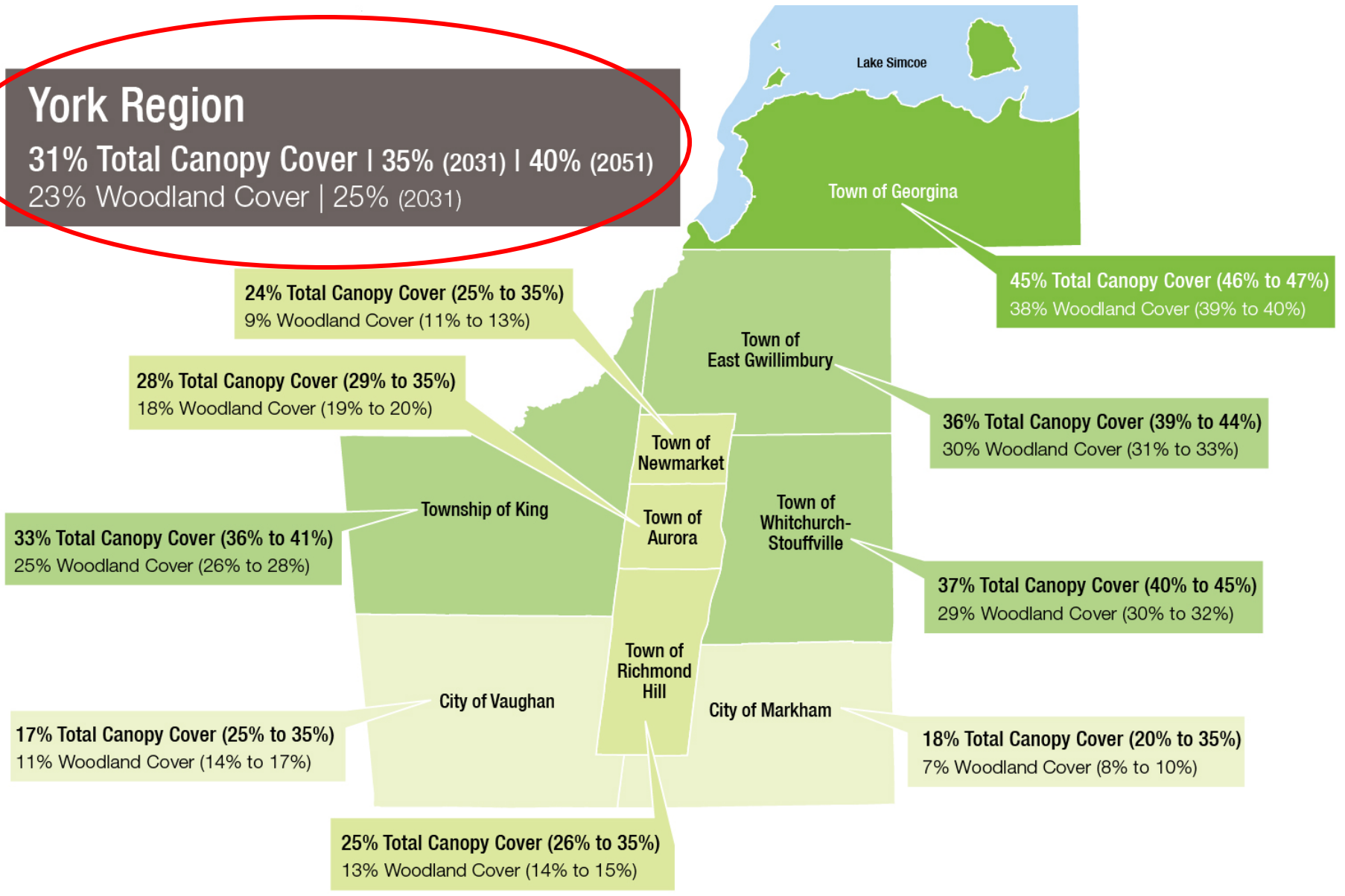
Trees and woodlands through improvement and innovation



York Region

31% Total Canopy Cover | 35% (2031) | 40% (2051)

23% Woodland Cover | 25% (2031)



How We Measure Up to Other Municipalities

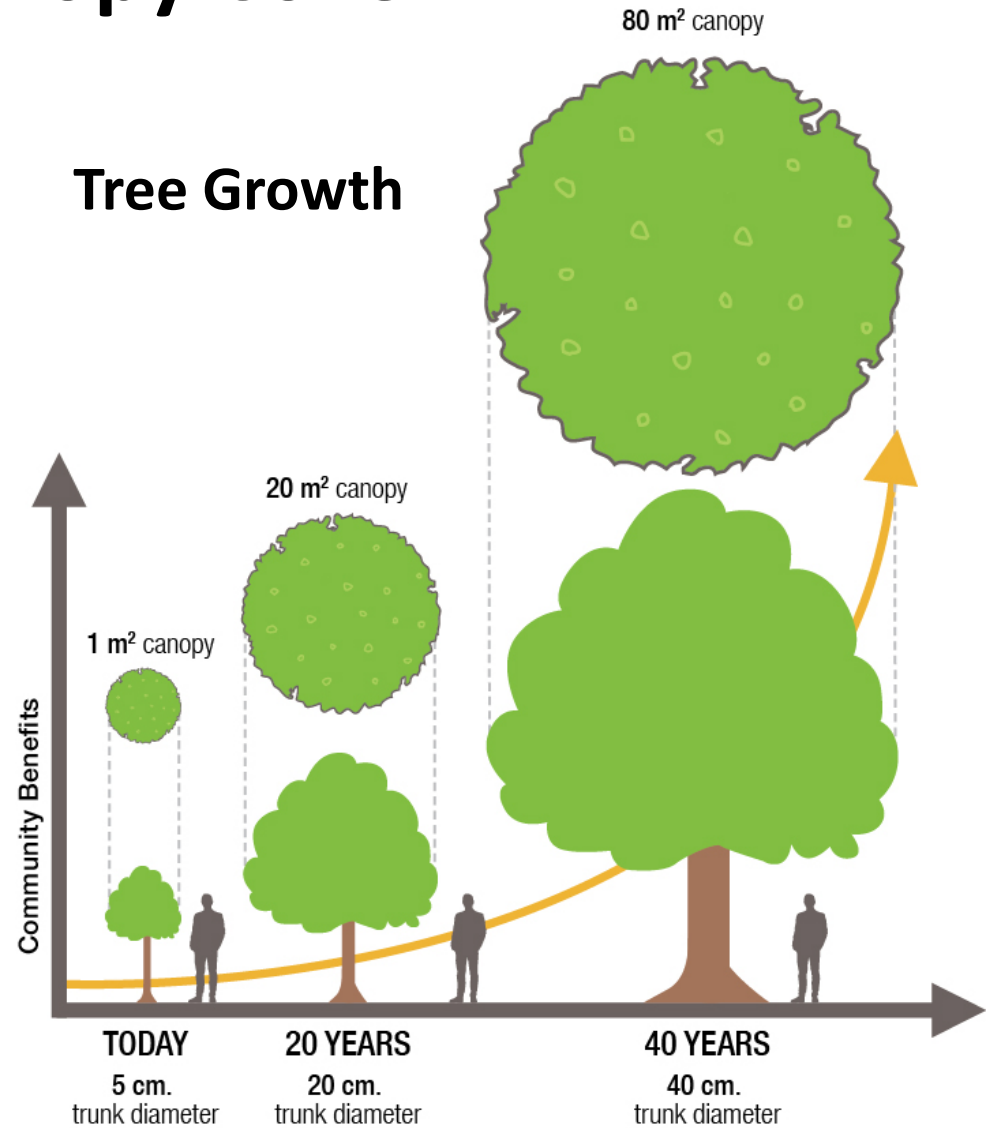
Municipality	Date of Plan	Current Canopy Cover	Target Canopy Cover
Halifax, NS	2013	41%	53%
Kingston, ON	2011	21%	42%
Mississauga, ON	2014	15%	20%
Guelph, ON	2013	20%	40%
Toronto, ON	2012	26%	40%
Oakville, ON	2012	29%	40%
Cambridge, ON	2015	27%	30%
Edmonton, AB	2012	10%	20%
New Westminster, BC	2014	18%	27%
Nanaimo, BC	2010	28%	32%
Kelowna, BC	2011	16%	20%
Victoria, BC	2013	18%	30%
York Region (proposed)	2016	31%	35% / 40%

Contribution to Canopy Cover

Tree Planting



Tree Growth



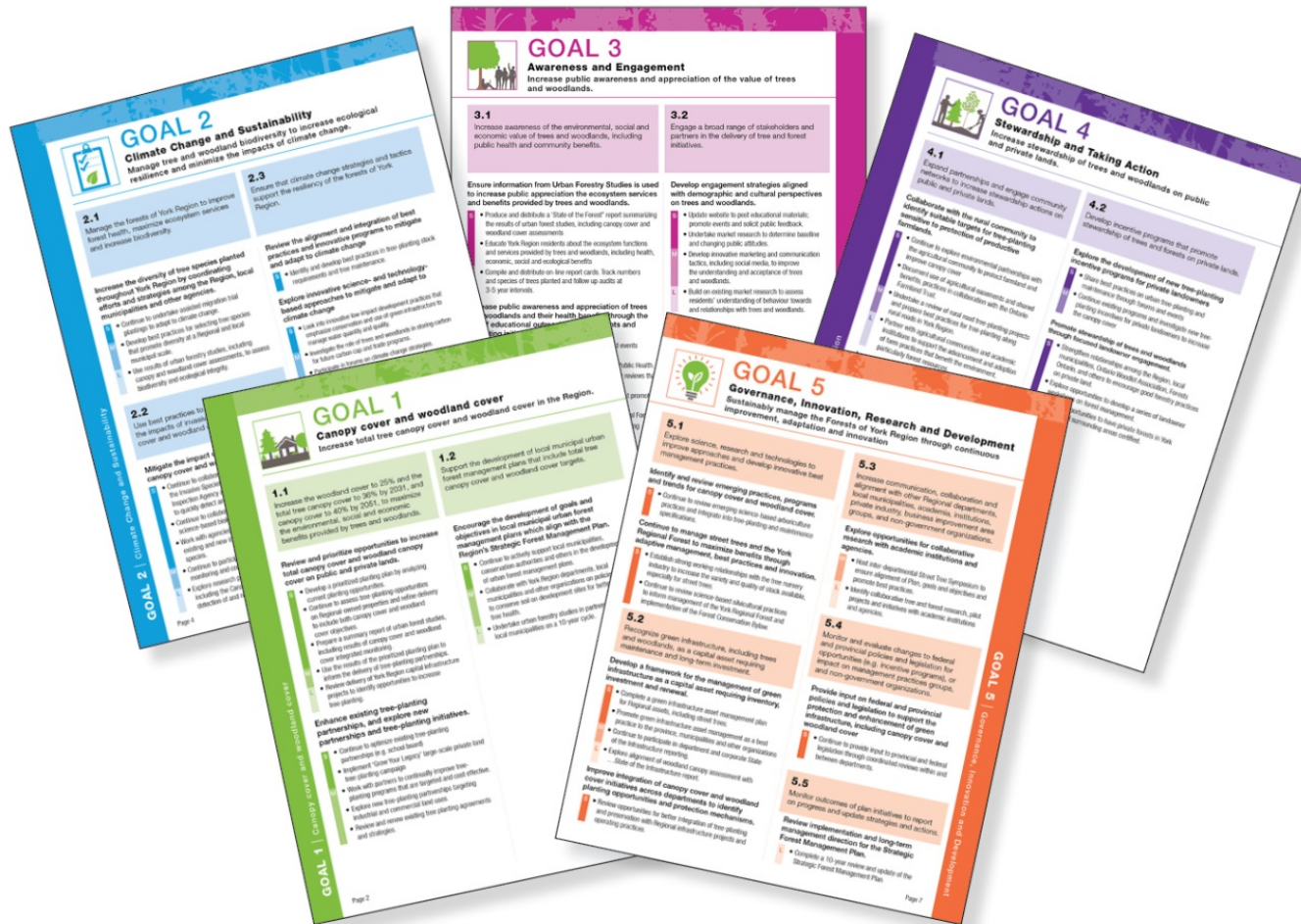
Opportunities for increases – best bets

- Residential areas (64%)
- Natural areas planting/regeneration (14%)
- School grounds, commercial and industrial landscapes (14%)
- Institutional lands (4%) – property naturalization
- Agricultural opportunities (4%)

Everybody contributes towards the 40% canopy



Putting the Plan into Action



Actions focus on: planting, partnerships, best practices, protection, education, stewardship, climate change, health benefits, asset management, green infrastructure, monitoring, legislation and more...

Thank you

