

Appendix 'D'

Examples of Town Initiatives Currently Underway

Town of Markham Projects 2008 and 2009

The TRCA's Rouge River Watershed Plan Implementation Guide (RRWPIG) recommends a number of implementation actions and projects which they would like to be undertaken within a 10 year horizon by agencies and municipalities within the Rouge River Watershed. The Town of Markham have underway or have planned a number of projects or initiatives which are consistent with priority implementation projects identified in the RRWPIG. For ease of reference the headings and numbering used below corresponds to those used in pages 18 – 22 in the Implementation Guide (Appendix 'C').

1. Policy and Policy Related Special Studies

1.1.0 Policy Projects

1a.1 *Identify the land base for the targeted terrestrial natural heritage system.*

The Town of Markham, through the Environmental Policy Review and Consolidation Study will be identifying a locally defined terrestrial natural heritage system in consultation with the TRCA.

1.1b. *Manage for post-development water balance to mimic pre-development conditions. In particular, protect locally significant recharge areas.*

The Town is currently reviewing all draft plan and site plan applications in accordance with the requirements for water balance considerations as identified by the TRCA recognizing that requirements to implement infiltration measures within Markham need to be sufficiently flexible to address clay soil conditions.

The matter of locally significant recharge areas needs further review. Groundwater investigations and research has increased and much more is known about the conditions in Markham, however, how these areas are defined as locally significant and the accuracy of the mapping continue to be questioned by stakeholders. The Town requires more detailed information on the location of 'potential' recharge areas and how these areas can be protected within a development context, before detailed policies can be considered for inclusion in the future Official Plan review process.

1.1c. *Develop strategies, and policies to promote sustainable urban form, including sustainable infrastructure, transportation and resource use.*

This policy initiative is already underway in the Town through the Town's Greenprint, the Sustainable Development Standards and Guidelines Study, the Town's Transportation and Markham Centre initiatives and the Growth Management Strategy. In addition the Town is about to embark on a Master Servicing Study for the Growth Management Strategy, which included a component on the preliminary assessment of sustainable technologies and provide recommendations on the potential use and applications of these technologies. These initiatives will support new sustainable policy approaches.

1.1d. *Conduct Master Environmental Servicing Plans (MESP) in a subwatershed context to establish the environmental systems framework and functionality as part of the growth planning process.*

This is already a Town of Markham best practise.

1.1e. *Recognize the regional open space system and the distinctive natural and cultural heritage that provides a basis for recreational experiences.*

The Town can recognize the regional open space system through policies in the Official Plan, and does this now through support of the Rouge Park. It is expected that the Rouge Park and the TRCA will have a major role in identifying and delivering the regional open space system.

1.1g. *Implement stormwater retrofits in existing developments and redevelopment projects.*

Stormwater retrofits are an expensive undertaking. The Town is currently reviewing all opportunities through various funding means to deliver a program of stormwater retrofits throughout the Town's urban areas. The Town will continue to identify strategic locations and funding partnership opportunities as they become available.

1.1h. *Adopt policies to implement the Greater Golden Horseshoe Conservation Authorities Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Urban Construction and update municipal Erosion and Sediment Control by-laws and Fill by-laws as necessary.*

This policy initiative is already being pursued by the Town, through adoption and use of the Guidelines that have been published.

1.1j. *Adopt policy to recognize and implement the Rouge River Watershed Based Fisheries Management Plan.*

The Rouge River Watershed Based Fisheries Management Plan is being finalized by the TRCA and is predominantly an aquatic management tool. The Town will review the document to ascertain its applicability within the context of land use policies and propose appropriate considerations within the context of the Environmental Policy Review and Consolidation Study.

1.2. *Recognition of the Rouge River Watershed Plan in the Town's Official Plan*

The Town will review appropriate watershed policies through the Environmental Policy Review and Consolidation Study

1.3. *Developing standards for sustainable community design*

This process is already underway and through initiatives such as Markham Centre, the Town is considered a leader in this area. (See other initiatives previously described in Section 1.1c above).

2.0 Regeneration

2.1 *Increase Natural Cover*

Regeneration projects are those which comprise ‘in the ground’ works primarily on publicly owned or large tracts of privately owned lands. The Town is coordinating significant regeneration efforts through the Town’s Trees for Tomorrow and Markham’s Environmental Sustainability Fund community projects.

2.2 *Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plans*

The Town will continue to explore opportunities for sustainable neighbourhood retrofit action plans as opportunities and funding become available. In 2008, the Town undertook restoration of Pomona Creek Phase 1. In addition, the Town through its approved SWM strategy will continue exploring the potential for retrofitting older SWM facilities to bring them up to current standards. The Engineering Department through its approved SWM strategy is currently exploring several options for financing stormwater related projects including rehabilitation of existing stormwater infrastructures. It is likely that funding support at the Provincial level will be necessary to make this a success. The objective is to establish a dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism and source for maintaining and supporting existing stormwater infrastructure and to improve the existing system via retrofitting and upgrading older ones.

2.3 *Inter-regional Trails Network*

The RRWPIG proposes an inter-regional trails network being developed by the Town in conjunction with the TRCA and Rouge Park and the need to develop a long-term funding strategy. The Town has been involved in trail development through the Cycling, Pathways and Trails Master Plans and have been urging the Rouge Park to treat trail development as a matter of the greatest importance coupled with the need to allocate more resources. There may be additional support for this initiative through the SE Collector Recreational Enhancement Funds.

3.0 Land Securement

3.1 *Secure the targeted TNHS lands in the “whitebelt”*

The Town already has in place a Land Securement Fund which can be used to acquire open space linkages and environmental lands.

4.0 Stewardship and Education

The actions and activities identified in the area of stewardship, education and awareness are generally the responsibility of the TRCA who have a strong mandate for stewardship and education activities. Nonetheless, the Town is undertaking a Landowner Education and Stewardship Program for the protection of Small Streams, and for which the TRCA has indicated its support.

5.0 Operations, Management and Maintenance

A number of actions are proposed at the municipal level for projects involving operations maintenance and management.

5.1 *Conduct watershed wide assessment of accumulation in SWM Facilities and develop a prioritized list for sediment removal*

The Engineering Department has recently completed for the Operation's Department a Stormwater Facility Maintenance Manual and Program which includes a comprehensive data list of all Town assumed SWM ponds and wetlands. The maintenance program and manual will provide the Town with a clear understanding of the status of each SWM facility (priority list) maintenance requirements, cost and applicable process/guidelines for removing sediments. Through this program, the Town will be able to forecast sediment accumulation in each pond and prioritize/budget for sediment removal and maintenance work in the future.

5.2 *Update current SWM Guidelines and Engineering Standards*

The Engineering Department is currently in the process of updating its SWM Engineering Standards and Guideline. To improve the development process, the new standards and guidelines will be consistent with many of the requirements included in the Rouge Watershed Plan, the TRCA Sediment and Erosion Control and the TRCA new SWM guidelines. Many of the new and innovative Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the impact (increased runoff) of new development on the natural environment will be included in the SWM Guideline and Engineering Standards. The new SWM Guideline is expected to be completed in early 2009.

5.3 *TRCA and Town of Markham – prepare flood emergency response plan for SPAs, including an inventory of hazards, prioritization and emergency response protocol*

The Engineering Department has recently completed the 2nd phase of the Town's Flood Emergency Response Plan (FERP). The FERP will cover the entire Town of Markham. Flood maps have been developed and vulnerable roads, bridges and structures have been prioritized based on the various storm events and flood elevations. A 3rd phase will commence shortly which, when completed will enable a centralized, controlled and coordinated response to any flood emergency event in the Town of Markham.

