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Communication

CW(WS) – May 7, 2025

Item No. 2

GREEN GUARDIANS

Community Programs Strategy, 2025-2029

Committee of the Whole Working Session

May 7, 2025



AGENDA



1. Green Guardians
2. Current Programs
3. Jurisdictional Scan
4. Areas of Focus
5. Planned Expansion
6. Conclusion

GREEN GUARDIANS



Vaughan's environmental stewardship program that unites residents, community groups, and businesses to promote environmental sustainability and keep communities safe, clean and beautiful



STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT



Environmental Sustainability

- Promoting environmental sustainability through education sessions around litter reduction and other sustainable practices
- Enhancing environmental sustainability by increasing tree planting, invasive species removal, wildlife habitat restoration, and garden beds



Active, Engaged and Inclusive Communities

- Enhance active, engaged and inclusive communities through expanded programs and sponsorship opportunities

CURRENT PROGRAMS



URBANIZATION CALLS FOR PROGRAM EXPANSION



City's rapid growth calls for greater need to maintain environmental sustainability



Increase in call volume from 2023 to 2024



Need to protect pollinators and promote native species



JURISDICTIONAL SCAN



AREAS OF FOCUS



ENGAGE

- Strengthen Community Connections
- Empower Local Leaders and Volunteers



AREAS OF FOCUS



EDUCATE

- Promote Sustainable Practices



AREAS OF FOCUS



EXPAND

- Expand Outreach to Drive Program Growth
- Increase Inclusivity and Resilience



PROPOSED NEW PROGRAMS



2025-2026

Communities in Bloom

A program that honors cities promoting citizen involvement in creating sustainable, beautiful urban environments



2026

Vaughan Gardeners

Hosts workshops and gardening sessions to help residents grow their own food and care for plants and trees



2026

Adopt-a-Park

Designed to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility for the care and upkeep of Vaughan's green spaces



2026-2028

Vaughan Healthy Yards

Provides tools for creating eco-friendly yards, focusing on pollinator support, water conservation, and waste reduction



2028

Vaughan Green Helpers

A volunteer initiative for tree planting, invasive species removal, wildlife habitat restoration at North Maple Regional Park

EXPANDING EXISTING PROGRAMS

Tree and Bench Dedication:

Explore sponsorship opportunities (2028)

Curb Appeal:

Digital map highlighting curb appeal program (2026)

Pollinator Initiatives:

Identify opportunities to plant monarch gardens (2027)

20-Minute Makeover:

Increase participation rate through outreach (2027)

Corporate and Community Tree Planting:

Increase participation through marketing (2029)

Grow with Vaughan:

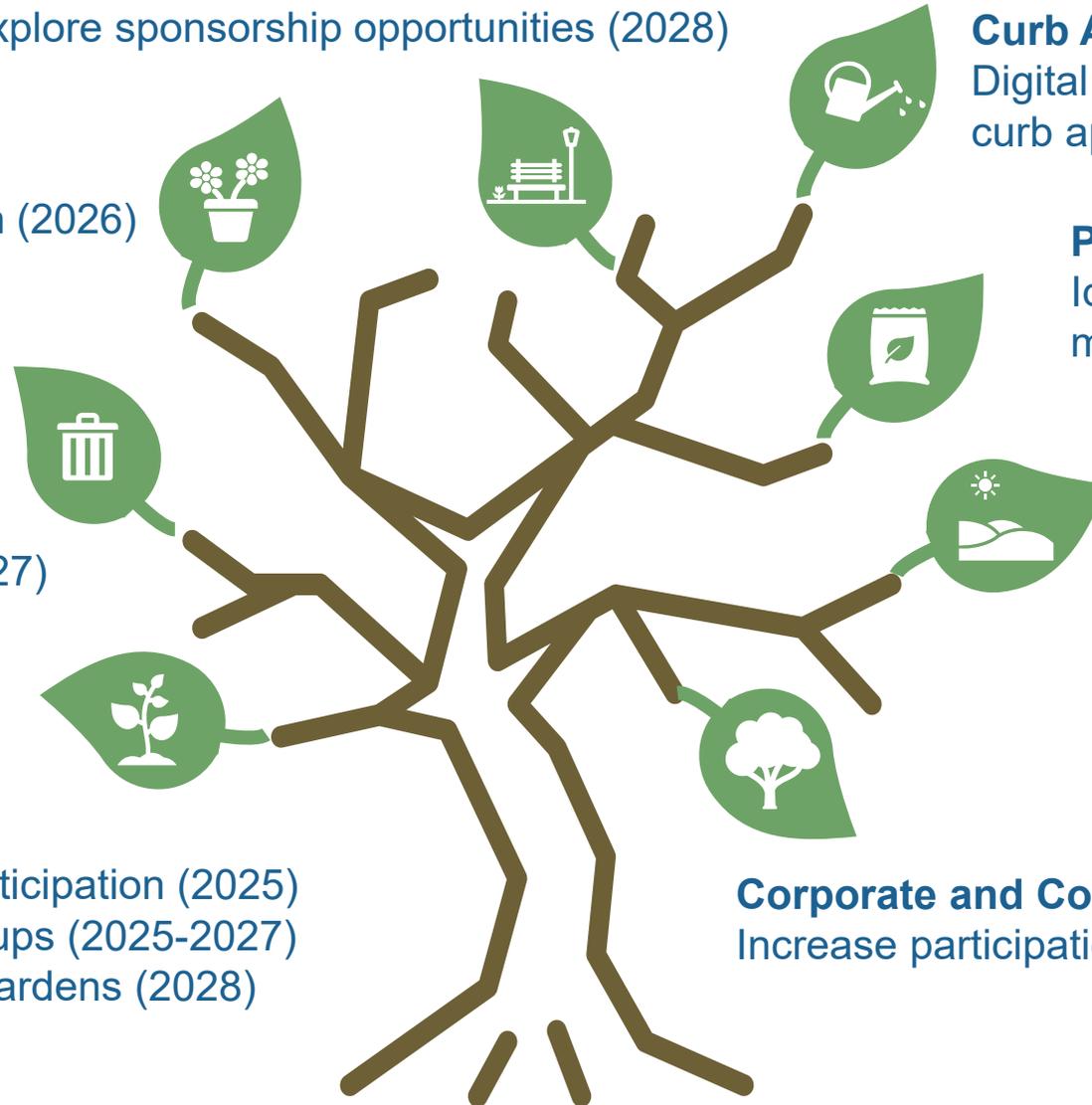
Multi year discounts to increase participation (2026)
Explore partnership opportunities (2027)

Community Cleanup:

Education sessions (2026)
Partner with community organizations (2027)

Community Planting Fund:

Highlight impact of projects to increase participation (2025)
Promote to cultural and environmental groups (2025-2027)
Consider expanding to food and sensory gardens (2028)



CONCLUSION



Expanding the eight existing initiatives and introducing five new programs, the Green Guardians Community Programs Strategy is structured around three areas of focus, five commitments, and 19 actions to be implemented over the next four years



Thank you!

Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations

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