

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WS) – MAY 7, 2025**COMMUNICATIONS****Distributed May 2, 2025****Item No.**

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| C1. | Presentation material titled “ <i>Tree Protection By-law and Tree Protection Protocol</i> ”. | 1 |
| C2. | Presentation material titled “ <i>Green Guardians Community Programs Strategy, 2025-2029</i> ”. | 2 |

Distributed May 6, 2025

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| C3. | Robert A. Kenedy, President of the MacKenzie Ridge Ratepayers Association, dated May 6, 2025.q | 1 |
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Please note there may be further Communications.

C 1

Communication

CW(WS) – May 7, 2025

Item No. 1

Tree Protection By-law and Tree Protection Protocol

Committee of the Whole (WS)
Presentation – May 7, 2025



Agenda

- Background and Benchmarking
- Tree Protection By-law Updates
- Tree Protection Protocol Updates



BACKGROUND AND BENCHMARKING

Strategic Alignment



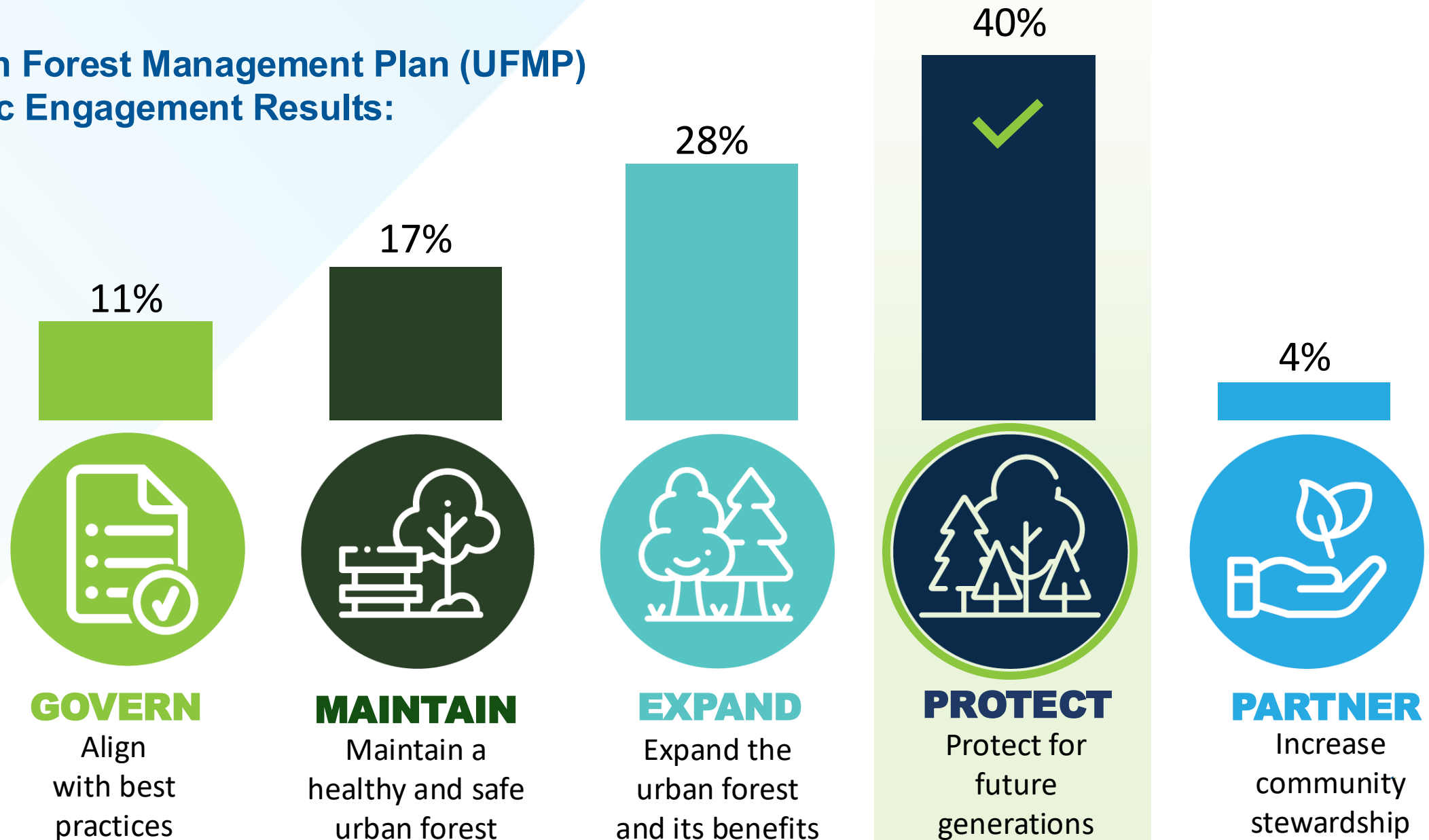
Prioritizing
Environmental Sustainability

Partners in **City Building**

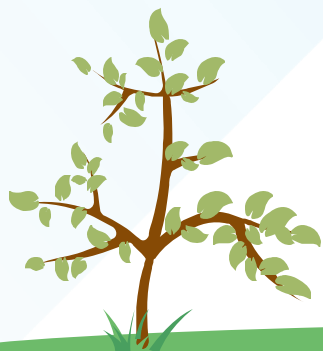
Enhancing
Service Excellence

Resident Ranking of Most Important UFMP Goal

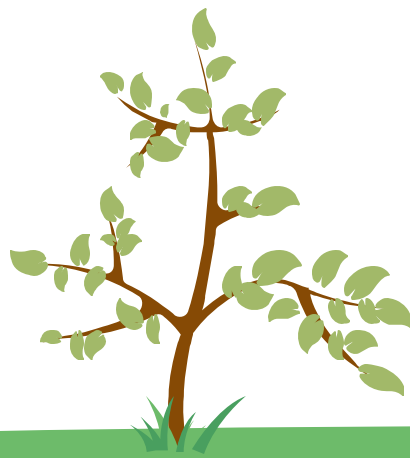
Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) Public Engagement Results:



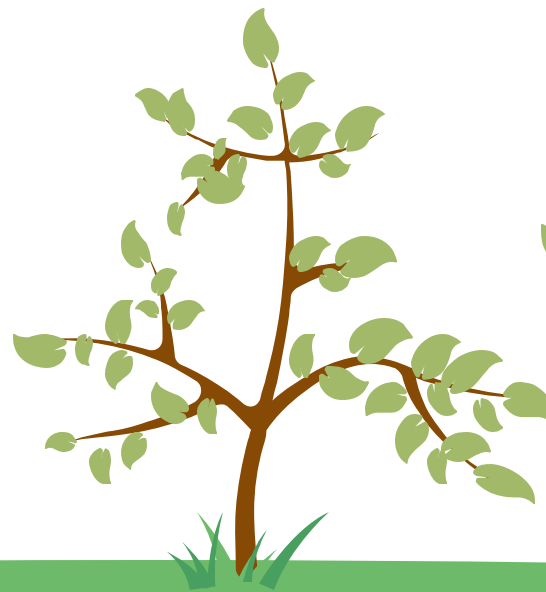
Vaughan Tree By-laws: Brief History



**Public Tree
By-law
2005**



**Private Tree
By-law
2007**



**Consolidated
By-law and Tree
Protection Protocol
2018**



**Updated By-law and
Tree Protection
Protocol
2025**

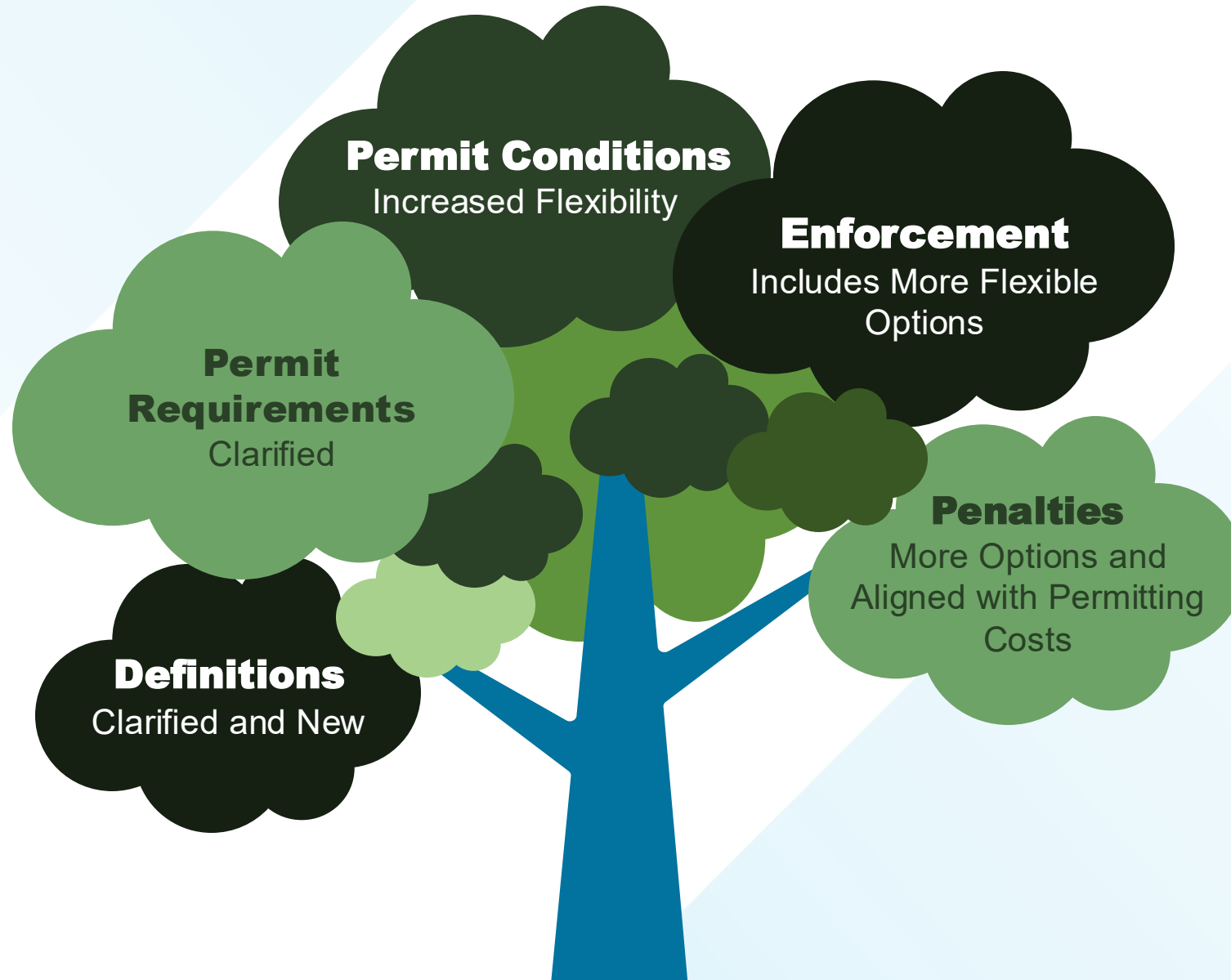
Municipal Benchmarking: Current State

Jurisdiction	Administrative Penalties (APs)			Provincial Offence Act (POA)		
	Uses APs for Tree Penalties	Lowest Tree Penalty AP	Highest Tree Penalty AP	POA Penalties per Municipal Act Max	Minimum POA Penalty	Maximum POA Penalty
Newmarket	Yes	\$1,000	\$2,250	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
London	Yes	\$750	\$1,000	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
Markham	Yes	\$500	\$500	Yes	\$300	\$100,000
Oakville	Yes	\$300	\$500	Yes	\$400	\$100,000
Brampton	Yes	\$250	\$1,000	Yes	N/A	\$100,000
Mississauga	No	-	-	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
Burlington	No	-	-	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
Toronto	No	-	-	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
Richmond Hill	No	-	-	No	\$300	\$100,000
Vaughan	No	-	-	No	\$250	\$10,000

A photograph of a dense forest with tall, slender trees and a dirt path leading through them. The scene is vibrant with green foliage. A large green arrow graphic points to the right, containing the text.

TREE PROTECTION PROTOCOL UPDATES

Key Changes: Overview



Key Changes: Penalties



Administrative Penalties

New: \$500 to \$2,700



New Minimum Fines

Previously: \$250



New Maximum Fines

Previously: \$10,000



Special Fines

Previously: \$25,000

\$>100,000

Municipal Benchmarking: Future State

Jurisdiction	Administrative Penalties (APs)			Provincial Offence Act (POA)		
	Uses APs for Tree Penalties	Lowest Tree Penalty AP	Highest Tree Penalty AP	POA Penalties per Municipal Act Max	Minimum POA Penalty	Maximum POA Penalty
Vaughan	Yes	\$500	\$2,700	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
Newmarket	Yes	\$1,000	\$2,250	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
London	Yes	\$750	\$1,000	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
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Burlington	No	-	-	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
Toronto	No	-	-	Yes	\$500	\$100,000
Richmond Hill	No	-	-	No	\$300	\$100,000

Scenario 1: Small Tree Example



20cm Diameter

Permit Costs

Application Fee:
\$230.43

Tree Replacement
Fee: \$600

**Total:
\$830.43**

Administrative Penalty

\$900

Scenario 2: Large Tree Example

**80cm Diameter
“Significant Tree”**

Permit Costs


Application Fee:
\$230.43

Tree
Replacement
Fee: \$2,400

**Total:
\$2,630.43**

Administrative Penalty

\$2,700

A photograph of a winter forest. A snow-covered path with tire tracks leads into the distance. The trees are heavily laden with snow, and the ground is a smooth, white expanse. The scene is captured in a cool, blue-toned light, suggesting a clear, cold day.

TREE PROTECTION PROTOCOL UPDATES

Key Changes: Overview



Enhanced Technical Requirements



Contributing Teams

Aligned with new organizational structure



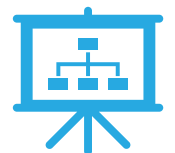
Strategic Alignment

Includes UFMP objectives



Regulatory Compliance

Aligned with emerging legislation



Roles and Responsibilities

Enhanced customer service outcomes



Scenario 3: Tree Protection Agreement

Current State*:



Future State*:



*Simplified for illustration purposes



Thank you!

Parks, Forestry and Horticulture Operations
City of Vaughan
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

vaughan.ca

C 2

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

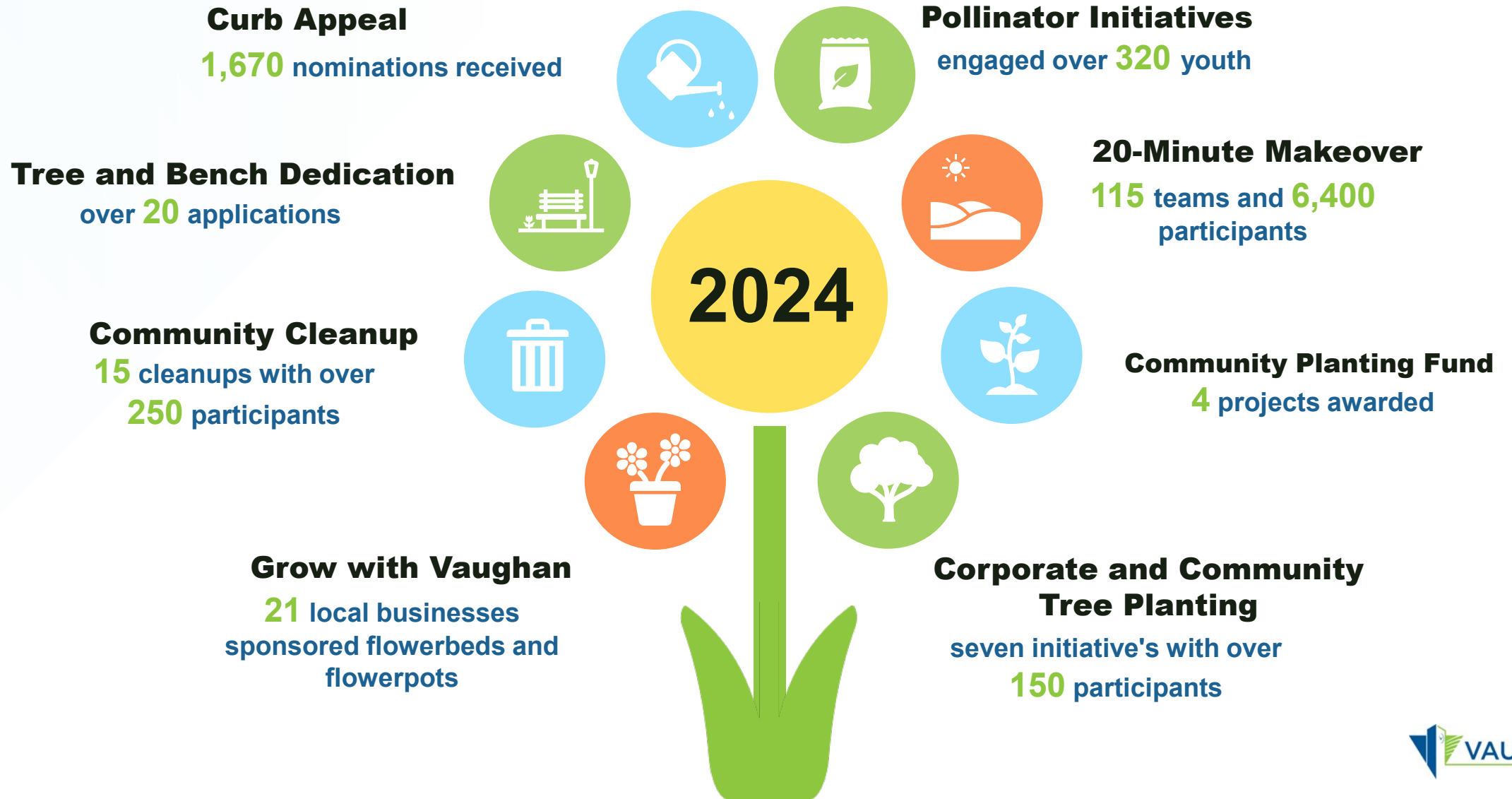
- Promoting environmental sustainability through education sessions around litter reduction and other sustainable practices
- Enhancing environmental sustainability by increasing tree planting, invasive species removal, wildlife habitat restoration, and garden beds



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:

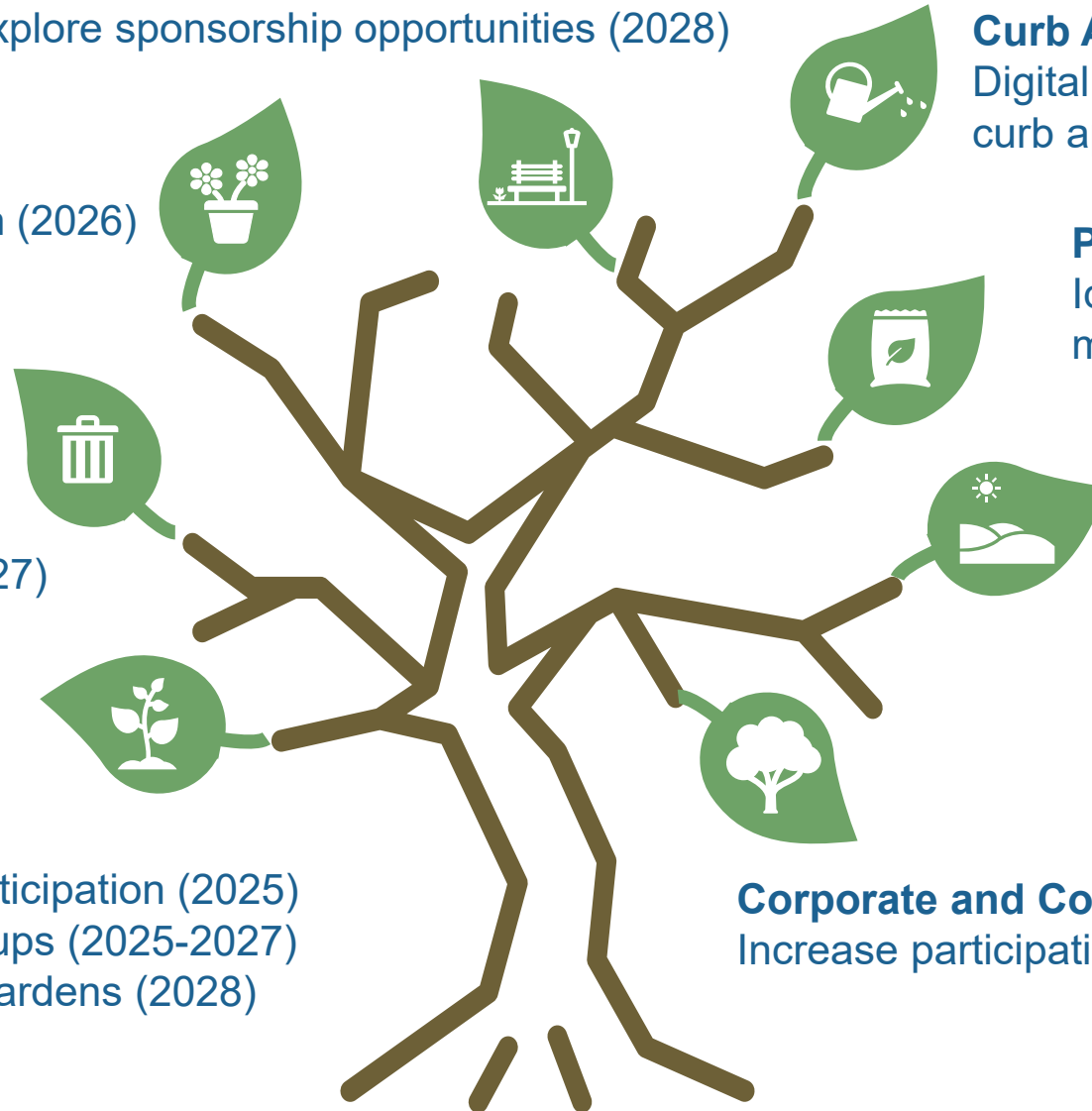
Multi year discounts to increase participation (2026)
Explore partnership opportunities (2027)

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

City of Vaughan
2800 Rutherford Rd
Vaughan, ON L4K 2N9

vaughan.ca

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: [John Britto](#)
Subject: FW: [External] "Tree Protection By-law and Tree Protection Protocol"
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:18:23 AM

C 3
Communication
CW(WS) – May 7, 2025
Item No. 1

From: Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 11:17 AM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca; Steven Del Duca <Steven.DelDuca@vaughan.ca>; Marilyn lafrate <Marilyn.lafrate@vaughan.ca>
Cc: Mackenzie Ridge Rate Payers Association <mackenzieridgerpa@gmail.com>
Subject: [External] "Tree Protection By-law and Tree Protection Protocol"

CAUTION! This is an external email. Verify the sender's email address and carefully examine any links or attachments before clicking. If you believe this may be a phishing email, please use the Phish Alert Button.

Dear Members of Council,

In reading the report, we could not agree more that the Vaughan Tree By-law needs updating, especially as it relates to woodlots. We always found it odd that York Region regulated woodlots, while Vaughan only regulated individual trees not in woodlots. Vaughan has some of the most robust forests in York Region and we believe that the City of Vaughan should be tasked with protecting them.

Our neighborhood has seen its fair share of tree cutting, however, we have found a supportive staff to be the best solution to the problem. For example, we were able to implement a buffer into a development adjacent to our neighbourhood with the cooperation of Vaughan staff as a creative benefit for losing trees. These proactive solutions involving reconciliation and restorative measures are sometimes better than blanket fines levied against landowners. We believe we were able to achieve this result because of a staff that was willing to work with the community and engage in dialogue with the developer to move toward proactive solutions involving restorative measures. Buffers are not common, but staff made an exception in this circumstance. The new Tree compensation Protocol allows for this, when in the past it was silent.

We are looking forward to seeing more community-based solutions like this in Vaughan that are neighbourhood-friendly and proactive.

Best,

Robert A. Kenedy, PhD
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Associate Professor
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4700 Keele Street
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