

# Walking the Talk

York Region Property Naturalization

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# Property Naturalization Program

- York Region owns over 240 properties totaling 2,953 Hectares.
- Reviewing properties under program criteria to determine suitability
- Region wide initiative working with all groups
- Creates personal commitment from branch responsible for the property



# Why York Region is Involved

Several guiding documents highlight York Region's commitment to preserving and enhancing green space.

- Strategic Plan
- Regional Official Plan Objective
- York Region Forest Management Plan

Naturalization of Region-owned lands will help achieve a portion of York Region's Woodland cover target.





# Goal of a naturalization project

- Increase woodland and riparian cover
- Replace manicured lawns with native species
- Reduce grounds maintenance costs
- Try to be an example for community



# What do we do?

- Evaluate a property
- Identify suitable naturalization tactics
- Manage naturalization project
- Match property with partner to assist with planning and planting
- Monitor site and assist with maintenance and resource information





# Stouffville Pumping Station

- 3.1 Ha of property naturalized
- 6,020 trees planted



# Mount Albert Water Pollution Control Plant

- ~10 Ha of property naturalized
- 17,850 trees planted





# Police Station and Roads Yard

- 2.5Ha of property naturalized
- 5,050 trees planted



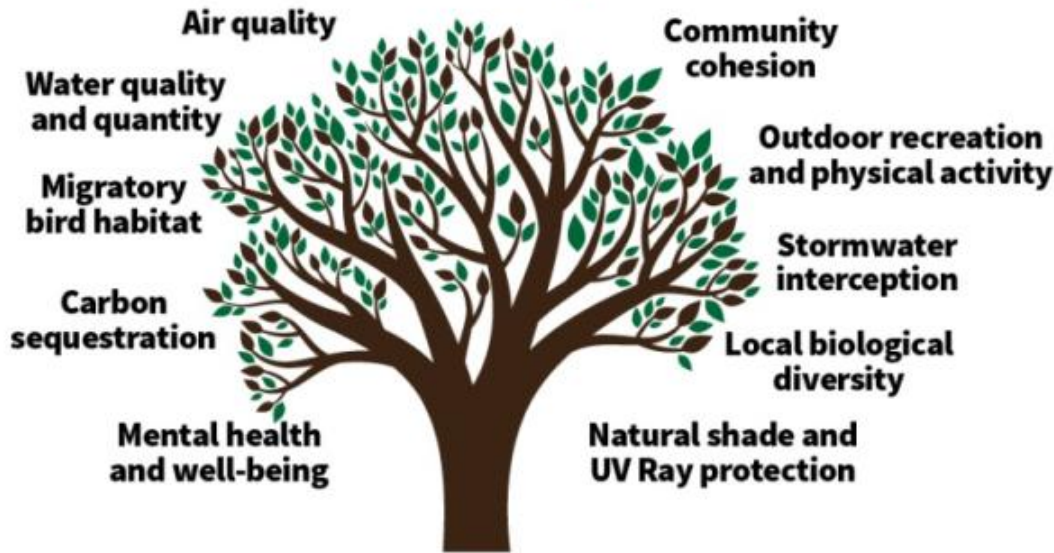


# Follow up and maintenance costs

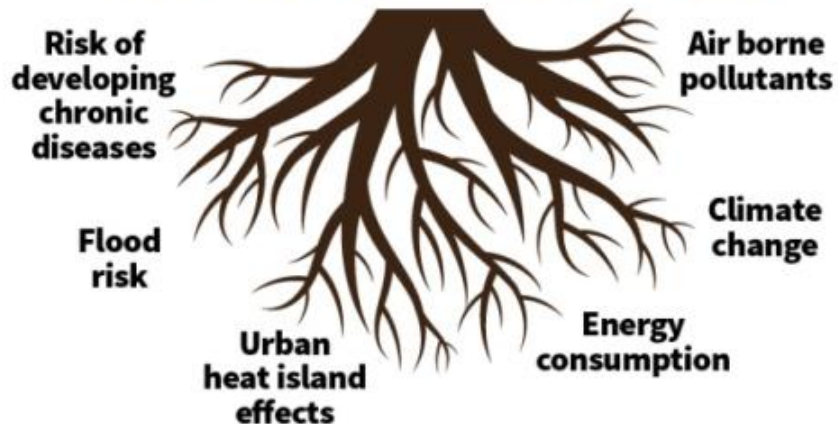
- Planting and initial site prep can be covered
- Work with site manager to cover maintenance costs
- Management of competition, Invasive species and other issues



# Studies have shown that **forests improve:**



# Studies have shown that **forests reduce:**



## BENEFITS

- Reduced energy costs
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Green space for staff





# CHALLENGES

- Competing resources land uses
- Allocating resources for restoration
- Who is responsible for the trees once planted

# SUCCESSES

- 30,000+ trees planted since 2008
- 16+ Ha of area
- 10+ properties
- Wildlife monitoring







# One Region, One Environment

York Region Property Naturalization Inquiries

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