

2011 Greening Strategy Achievements & Rouge National Urban Park Update

Presentation to
Environmental Services Committee

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Presentation Overview

2011 Greening Strategy Achievements - Highlights

- ❑ Tree planting programs
- ❑ Land securement
- ❑ Education and outreach
- ❑ Greening Strategy consultation

Rouge National Urban Park Update

- ❑ Rouge Park Study Area
- ❑ Parks Canada – Statement of Intent
- ❑ Federal budget announcement March 29, 2012



111,000 Trees and Shrubs Planted

- ❑ York Natural Planting Partnership
- ❑ Municipal partnership community tree planting
- ❑ Naturalization of Regional properties
- ❑ Adopt-A-Stream-Crossing program
- ❑ And more ...



Local Enhancement and Appreciation of Forests

LEAF success - private land back yard subsidized tree planting program

- ❑ 2008 pilot project in Markham
- ❑ 2009 expanded to include Richmond Hill and Vaughan
- ❑ 2010 new Do-It-Yourself option across all municipalities
- ❑ 2011 full service expanded to include Aurora and Newmarket

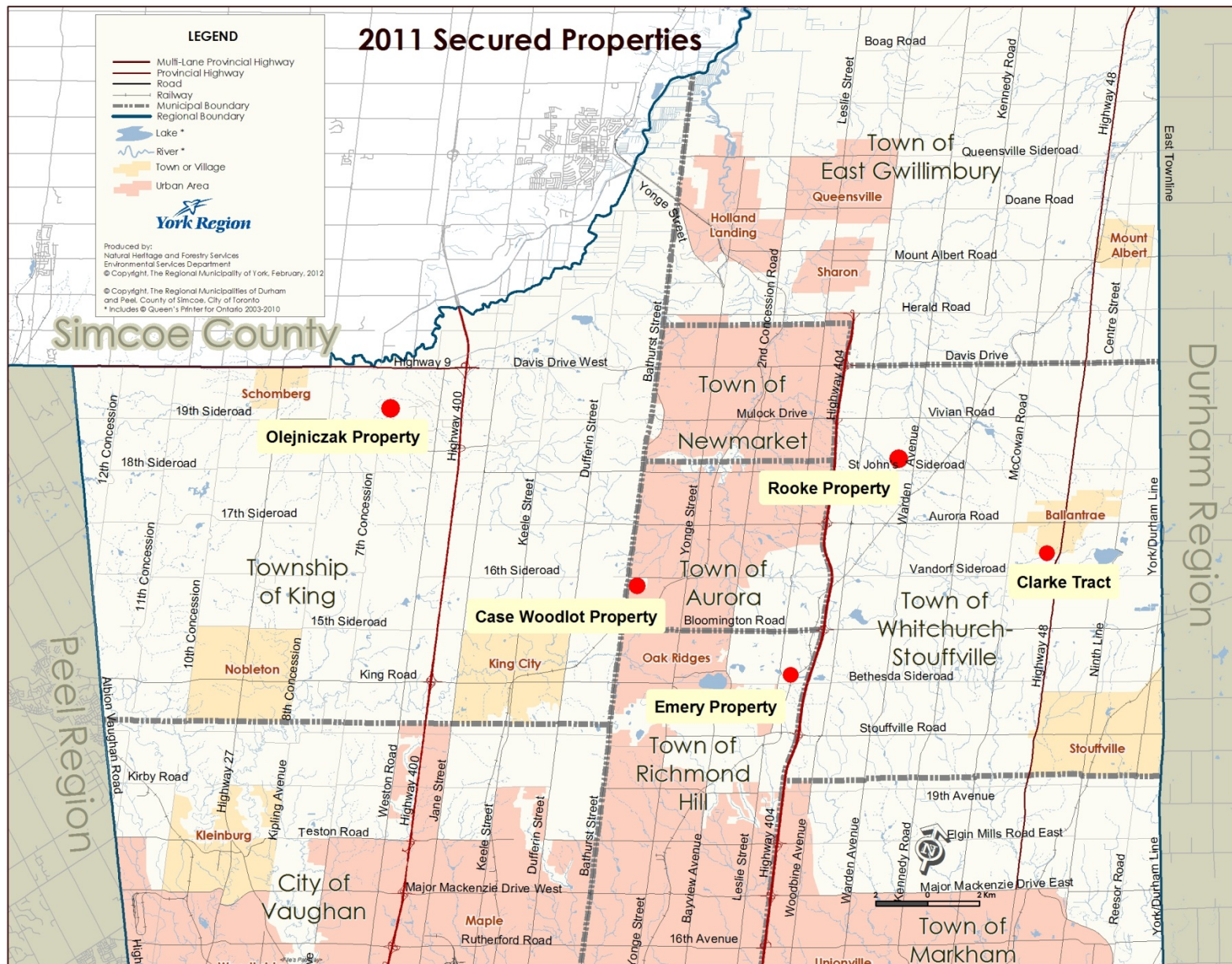


Land Secured for Conservation Purposes

Property	Municipality	Partner	Size	York Region Contribution	Property Value
Rooke • easement	Whitchurch Stouffville	ORMLT	8 ha	ORMLT agreement	\$235,000
Case Woodlot • purchase	Aurora	Aurora	10 ha	\$100,000	\$700,000
Clarke • transfer	Whitchurch Stouffville	None	12.5 ha	none	N/A
Emery • easement	Richmond Hill	ORMLT	4 ha	ORMLT agreement	\$634,320
Olejnicza • purchase	King	LSRCA	3 ha	\$644	\$27,555
TOTAL			37.5 ha	\$100,644	\$1,596,875

* The Region has a land securement agreement with Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust (ORMLT) with an annual contribution of \$40,000 in accordance with Council approved three-year partnership agreement.

973 hectares secured since 2001



Environmental Education Grows

- ❑ 12 York Regional Forest Festivals and Events
- ❑ Nature's Classroom Programs
 - 35 events and 934 residents
- ❑ Earth Week 2011 – co-ordination
- ❑ Children's Water Festival – participation
- ❑ York District School Board brings 280 students to forest



Greening Strategy Refinement - Consultation



Environics - phone survey	September 2011
Environics- focus groups (4)	October 2011
EAC Forum	September 19, 2011
Partner workshop	October 14, 2011
Public Information Center (2)	October 25 & 27, 2011
Agriculture Advisory Liaison Group	October 26, 2011
Internal Working Session	November 3, 2011
Communications Strategy – Focus Groups (2)	February 2012

Greening Strategy Moving Forward

What was heard - Opportunities

- ❑ synergy with the agricultural community
- ❑ link environmental health and public health
- ❑ additional focus on urban opportunities
- ❑ explore more diverse partnerships
- ❑ ...and more

➤ Report to Council June 2012

Rouge National Urban Park Update

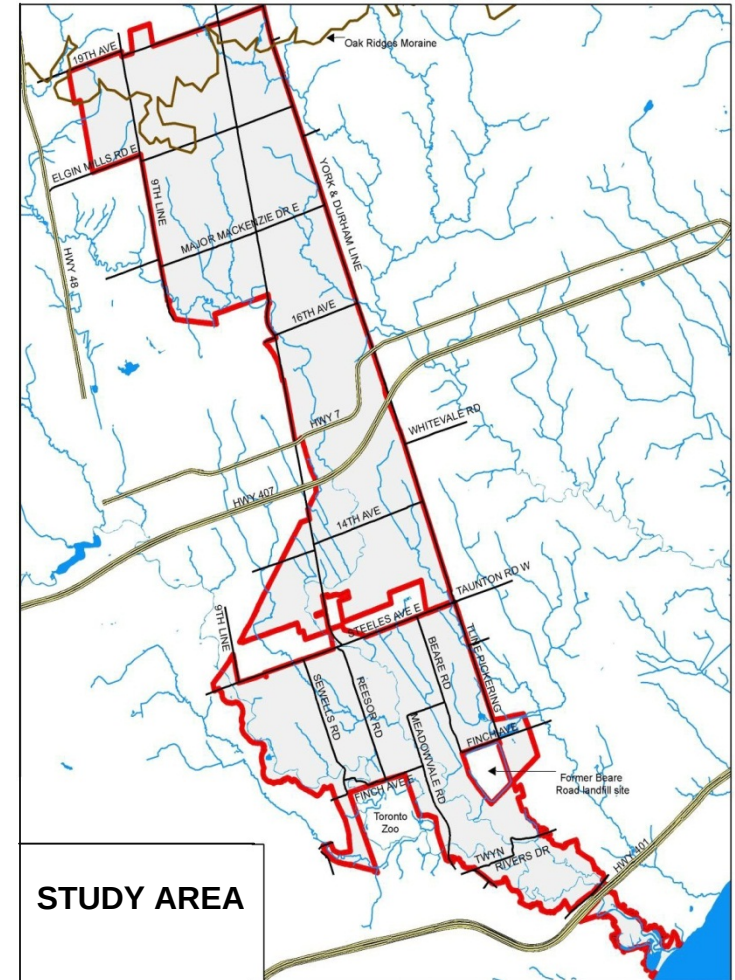
- ❑ 1995 – Rouge Park Alliance established to guide the development of Rouge Park
- ❑ 1995 – 2009 expansion of Rouge Park to 47 km²
- ❑ 2010 – Rouge park concludes a governance review recommending National Park status
- ❑ June 2011 Government of Canada Throne Speech commits to creation of a Rouge National Urban Park
- ❑ Ongoing – Parks Canada advancing stakeholder consultation and National Park establishment process
- ❑ March 29, 2012 Federal budget announcement: Protecting Canada's Natural Environment and Wildlife:

"The government is committed to preserving Canada's natural beauty. The Economic Action Plan 2012 proposes: The creation of Canada's first near-urban park in the Rouge Valley in Ontario."

Parks Canada – Statement of Intent

Purpose:

- ❑ To express commitment by the participants to:
 - Work together towards a recommendation on the park boundaries, and
 - To take the necessary steps to establish Rouge National Urban Park,
 - Subject to the approvals process specific to each participant



Report Recommendations

1. Council endorse the Federal government's Statement of Intent – towards cooperation and collaboration with Parks Canada in establishing a national urban park in the Rouge Valley subject to protection of Regional interests in growth management, assets, infrastructure and agriculture.
2. Regional Clerk circulate this report to Parks Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure, Town of Markham, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, Town of Richmond Hill, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, City of Toronto, City of Pickering, Region of Durham and the Rouge Park Alliance.