



King Township's Integrated Community **SUSTAINABILITY PLAN**



April 2012



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our Sustainability Plan – What is it?

King Township’s Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (referred to as the Plan) demonstrates that we, as a community, are committed to making smarter decisions about how we use our resources, design our communities and manage our finances.

Our Plan is a resource that defines the future for the Township of King (i.e., the municipality), community groups, businesses, local organizations and the broader public. It guides and directs how we make decisions, develop partnerships and take action. Our Plan promotes community vitality and prosperity while respecting, preserving and restoring our natural environment. It emphasizes a balance between the environmental, economic, socio-cultural, and financial priorities of our community and it recognizes the interconnections between them.



In King Township, sustainability has 4 pillars: economic, environmental, socio-cultural and financial. Like a house with four sturdy columns, a strong sustainability foundation requires the balancing of all four pillars.

How We Developed the Plan

Our Plan was created through an extensive collaborative process with the community. We asked residents to tell us, “What do you love about King Township?” and, “What changes would you most like to see?”. We had in-depth conversations about the future of King Township with our Sustainability Task Force, Working Groups and stakeholders from the public, private and community sectors as well as King Township staff. We took a critical look at where we are now (2012), where we want to be in 20 to 25 years, and then we identified creative, tangible solutions for achieving our long-term goals.

By working together and discussing our future we developed a common vision, goals, strategies and actions, as well as a new understanding of how we work together.

Our Vision

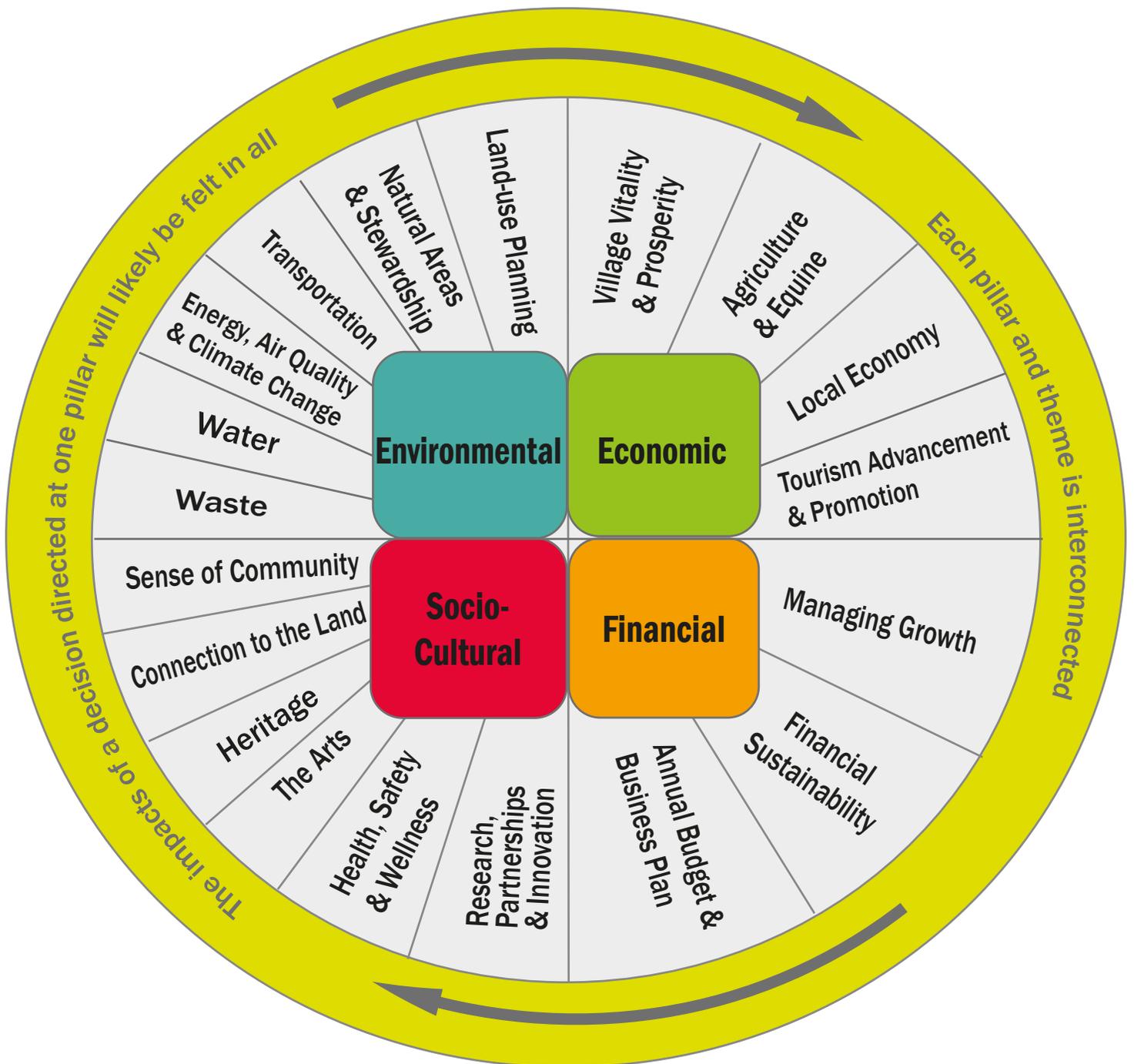
Our vision describes the ideal future for King Township. It is based on the common values, priorities and aspirations of the community.

***King Township is an idyllic countryside community of communities,
proud of its rural, cultural and agricultural heritage.
We are respected for treasuring nature, encouraging a responsible local economy,
and celebrating our vibrant quality of life.***

Our Themes and Goals

Our Plan has 19 themes, organized by the four pillars of sustainability (environment, economy, socio-culture, finance). The diagram below shows how each of these pillars and themes is interconnected.

For each theme we developed a goal (the ideal future), a list of strategies (high-level objectives) and potential actions (specific initiatives that will help us achieve our goal). Our goals and strategies can be found in the Plan on pages 27 to 65 and the potential actions can be found in the "Potential Action Bank" in Appendix A (Note: not all potential actions need to be undertaken to make the Plan a success).



Immediate Priorities

To continue building momentum in King Township and to ensure we achieve tangible results in the short-term, the community, Task Force and Working Groups defined the following priorities requiring action in the initial years of implementation:

- **Strengthen the Township of King’s planning legislation and by-laws to reinforce environmental protection and public health and safety**
- **Develop a strategy for intensification and infill**
- **Create a natural heritage inventory**
- **Create a public sustainability awareness campaign to build community support for implementing the Plan**
- **Conduct an inventory of our assets**
- **Update and implement village plans**
- **Develop and implement an economic development strategy**
- **Host an annual summit for our community organizations to celebrate their initiatives and accomplishments, foster collaboration and encourage new volunteers**
- **Strengthen the connection with our food and farming communities and improve access to local food**
- **Celebrate, promote and maintain King Township’s cultural identity**
- **Establish a Community Arts Centre that can host performances, showcase King Township’s art and provide community programming**
- **Encourage the use, appreciation and respect of King Township’s natural areas and trails**
- **Develop strategic partnerships with educational and agricultural institutions to continue to support learning and community development**
- **Ensure financial sustainability for King Township**

Implementing the Plan

Our Plan is focused on implementing sustainable actions and leveraging the resources of our local community. The Township of King is responsible for leading the implementation of the Plan while Community Partners (individuals, community groups, organizations and businesses) are encouraged to support the municipality by partnering, endorsing or undertaking actions in the Plan. A preliminary list of potential community partners can be found in Appendix D.

A Sustainability Committee is responsible for guiding the implementation process. The Committee is responsible for taking the necessary steps to recruit and engage businesses, developers, community organizations, stakeholders and the larger community to endorse and carry out the Plan’s actions, as well as receive and vet requests from community groups looking to undertake actions within the Plan. In addition, the Committee will work collaboratively with Council and Township of King staff to ensure implementation ensues. Township of King staff will also be encouraged to integrate the Plan’s goals, strategies and actions into future plans and initiatives within municipal operations.

A Resource for the Entire Community

The Plan is a community plan, which means that it can be a resource for anyone in King Township.

- An organization, group or business can adopt the Plan's goals and strategies and integrate them into their planning processes. Individuals can also promote or endorse the Plan's overall vision, goals and strategies.
- An organization, group, business or individual can take on one or more of the 'potential actions' found in our Potential Action Bank (Appendix A).
- The Plan can be used as a resource for educational institutions, wishing to teach sustainability at the local level. Educators and students can also further develop actions as school projects or contributions to community service hours. Post-secondary students can assist with various actions in the Plan as part of their research activities.

The Township of King Council and staff will also use the Plan to:

- Ensure sustainability is a key consideration in making decisions about our community's future;
- Align future municipal plans, programs, policies and budgets going forward with the Plan; and
- Seek funding opportunities that align with actions in this document as part of the implementation process.

Monitoring Our Progress

Every year the Township of King will develop a Progress Report with information about the status of the Plan's implementation. A more in-depth review will be undertaken every five years.

Our Plan includes two sets of indicators that will help us to measure our progress towards sustainability over time. A list of 19 over-arching indicators can be found on page 71 of the Plan and a longer list of potential indicators is located in Appendix B.

Ongoing Collaboration with the Community

Community engagement and collaboration is an ongoing and a key component of our Plan's success. Key opportunities to be involved include:

- Attending the Annual Community Forum for Sustainability;
- Applying to be on the Sustainability Committee;
- Taking part in workshops, programs, and events;
- Continuing to provide input in various ways;
- Endorsing or undertaking the Plan's strategies and actions; and
- Promoting sustainability and sustainable initiatives through individual networks, businesses and conversations.

If you would like to learn more about how be involved in our sustainability program please contact: spuppi@king.ca or visit our website www.sustainableking.ca.



Photo credit: The Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR STEVE PELLEGRINI

As Mayor, I have made a commitment to work with Council, Township staff and the community to define a sustainable future for King Township. On behalf of Council, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the King Township Sustainability Plan.

Our Plan is the culmination of the extraordinary efforts of community members, dedicated Sustainability Ambassadors and Working Group volunteers who have ensured that the Plan reflects our community aspirations. King Township residents have shown they care deeply about the future of the Township. They have provided great ideas on how we can preserve the elements we love, while making improvements towards a more sustainable future. It is this level of passion and engagement that will ensure the success of the Plan.

Our Plan presents our ideal vision for King Township and provides guidance and direction to Council and staff for the long-term. It focuses on protecting the natural environment, preserving our cultural identity, strengthening our economic resilience and ensuring we operate in a financially sustainable manner. Working together, thinking creatively, with sustainability as the lens, King Township will continue to evolve into one of the most desirable places to live in Canada.

Congratulations to all who have worked so hard to accomplish this Plan. I hope that you will continue to support and drive the Plan as we move forward into implementation and action.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CAO, SUSAN PLAMONDON

On behalf of the Township of King staff and Senior Management Team, I would like to take this opportunity to thank residents for your exceptional efforts in developing King Township's first Sustainability Plan.

So much good work and good will from our community has gone into the development of this plan. Our entire community and Township staff need to rally around it. It is a plan for today that looks to the longer term future. It builds on long standing values and our heritage and encourages us to grow without compromising them. The Plan guides us by identifying goals – including continuing to protect our natural environment and agricultural lands, attracting new jobs and maintaining our cultural heritage. This plan belongs to all of us, residents, farmers, businesses, community groups, clubs and associations and we are all responsible for its successful implementation.

Our Plan reflects a spirit of self-reliance and progressive thinking that we believe is a priority for King Township. It also makes a clear assertion that as a community we have the power and the responsibility to make a significant difference for us and for future generations.

The Township has completed many sustainability actions in recent years. We developed green building policies, constructed King Township's first two LEED™ buildings, initiated renewable energy projects and campaigns, created a Township sustainability blog, hired a Sustainability Coordinator, and are continuing to provide various conservation, education and outreach initiatives. Within our municipal operations, staff are already working with Council to incorporate sustainability into our daily activities. As we move from planning for sustainability to action, we will be examining ways to ensure that our departmental business plans align with the Sustainability Plan.

I am so very proud to be part of a team that will have the opportunity to implement this Plan. We are committed and will work hard, under Council's direction and with community support to achieve our vision of King Township as an idyllic community that is respected, responsible and vibrant.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE CHAIR, DEBBIE SCHAEFER

Our Sustainability Plan is powerful. Its power comes from "how it came to be." Ideas and insights about what King Township is and should be came from more than 3,000 people including youth, parents, seniors and business owners. The four Working Groups comprised of 39 volunteers gave hundreds of hours to develop robust actions to be implemented. These volunteers included many of the same citizens who traditionally give their time and energy generously to civic/community groups; but in addition there were many people who have never engaged in such activities before. These volunteers included recent university graduates, business people and owners, retirees, new and long time residents. The Task Force set direction and very importantly kept challenging itself to ensure that the Plan would make a difference. It has been exciting to be part of the process; but, the real excitement will be seeing King Township implement the plan and becoming a truly sustainable community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

King Township's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan was made possible by the dedication and commitment of the following contributors:

Accessibility Advisory Committee	King Bible Church	Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust
Arts Society King (ASK)	King Sentinel	Oak Ridges Trail Association
Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD)	King Township Baseball Association	Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
Compost Council of Canada	King Township Chamber of Commerce	Ontario Greenbelt Alliance
Cold Creek Stewardship	King Township Food Bank	Ontario Nature
Concerned Citizens of King Township	King Township Public Library	Save the Oak Ridges Moraine
Country Day School	King Township Museum	Schomberg Village Association
Dufferin Marsh Committee	King Weekly	Seneca College - King Campus
Environmental Defense	The Kingbridge Centre	Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Heritage Advisory Committee	Koffler Scientific Reserve	Trisan Centre
Hospice King ☐ Aurora	Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority	York Region
Humber Alliance	Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)	York Region Environmental Alliance
Kettleby Public School	Montessori School	York Region Food Network
Kettleby Village Association	Nature Conservancy of Canada	York-Simcoe Naturalists
King City Public School	Nobleton Alert	
King City Secondary School	Nobleton & King City Horticultural Society	
King City Seniors Club	Nobleton Village Association	
King City Trails		

Working Group Members

Councillor Avia Eek	Patty Ella	David Love
Councillor Debbie Schaefer	Bill Eek	Hans Martin
Councillor Peter Grandilli	Marsha Field	Ron Mitchell
Bryce Baker	Richard Force	Antonietta Mollicone
Paul Bayliss	John Fenton	Barbara Raaflaub
Nancy Belo Gomes	Peter Iaboni	Maureen Richardson
Susan Beharriell	Judy Gilchrist	Elaine Robertson
Janice Byerlay	Matthew Jones	Rick Sikorski
Charles Cooper	Brent King	Jeff Schmidt
Fiona Cowles	Rick Kloepfer	Jim Streb
Jennifer Coxworthy	Susan Lloyd Swail	Enza Torchia
Marilena DiGiuseppe	Mario Leonienco	Gary Vogan
Tom Dobson	Greg Locke	Larry White

Sustainability Task Force Members

Mayor Steve Pellegrini
Councillor Debbie Schaefer (Chair)
Councillor Peter Grandilli
Susan Plamondon, CAO
Stephen Kitchen, Director of Planning
Jamie Smyth, Economic Development Officer

Sara Puppi, Sustainability Coordinator
Susan Lloyd Swail, Environmental Ambassador
Nancy Belo Gomes, Socio-Cultural Ambassador
Rick Kloepfer, Economic Ambassador
Brent King, Finance Ambassador

Community

More than 1,200 individuals contributed their ideas to help shape this Plan.

King Township Staff

Engineering & Public Works – Rob Flindall, Derek Bakshi, Mike Cole and Jody LaPlante
Planning Department – Stephen Kitchen, Kristen Bond, Katrina Guy, Sara Puppi and Gaspare Ritacca
Information Technology – Barbara Harris
Building Department – Peter Lavrench
Human Resources – Marilyn Loan
Clerks Office – Kathryn Smyth
Parks, Recreation and Culture – David Clark, Mary Asselstine and Kathleen Fry
By-Law Enforcement – Walt Peacock and Brad Stade
Finance Department – Jeff Schmidt and Wendy Kwan
Fire & Emergency Services – Bryan Burbidge and Jim Wall
Economic Development Office – Jamie Smyth

Lura Consulting Team

Liz Nield, Project Co-Director
Dave Hardy, Project Co-Director
Susan Hall, Project Co-Director
Ariana Cancelli, Project Support
Jeff Garkowski, Project Support

Funding/Financial Support

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Photo and Image credits

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INTRODUCTION

About the Sustainability Plan

King Township's Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (The Plan) is an exciting framework that describes how our community will enhance our long-term well-being and protect the environment over the next 20 to 25 years. It guides and balances environmental, economic, socio-cultural, and financial priorities, in a way that promotes community vitality and prosperity while respecting, preserving and restoring our natural environment.

The Township of King (i.e., the municipality) has made great progress towards sustainability over the past several years. Many initiatives have been put into action, including: the ongoing development of green building policies; the construction of King Township's first two LEED™ buildings (pending certification); renewable energy projects and campaigns; the creation of a Township sustainability blog; hiring of a Sustainability Coordinator; and various conservation, education and outreach initiatives.

To continue building momentum and to provide a framework for driving sustainability, the Township of King applied for and was granted funding from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCM) Green Municipal Fund to develop an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (referred to as The Plan). Over the course of almost a year, our community, a Sustainability Task Force, four Working Groups, stakeholders and Township staff have been diligently working together to prepare this Plan.

Through the planning process, we identified a unified vision for the future of King Township (i.e., the community), a set of goals, strategies and a list of potential actions for achieving that vision. This Plan is intended to provide guidance to the Township of King and our community partners, and act as a framework for developing and implementing sustainable strategies and initiatives. The Plan also provides direction for implementation, including an organizational model and an approach to ongoing measurement and accountability.



Photo Credit: Jamie Reaume

What is Sustainability?

The most commonly adopted definition of sustainability is, "meeting the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." (Brundtland Report, 1987). This means the actions we take must protect, restore and enhance our natural environment and promote high quality of life today, tomorrow and for generations to come.

Our community understands that sustainability is about:

- Protecting the natural environment
- Changing our behaviour to consume less resources
- Thinking about and preparing for global changes
- Finding creative solutions that work for King Township's rural economy
- Providing more transportation options
- Supporting our farmers and the agricultural sector
- Celebrating our natural and cultural assets
- Cultivating a strong sense of community
- Evaluating the long-term effects of our actions
- Making smart decisions about community design, land use planning and infrastructure while connecting our neighbourhoods and village cores
- Thinking long-term about the effects of our financial decision making
- Thinking differently, being more innovative and collaborative
- Creating a cohesive community that respects the identity and uniqueness of all King Township's villages and hamlets

In King Township, sustainability is expressed as having four pillars: economic, environmental, socio-cultural and financial.



Like a house with four sturdy columns, a strong sustainability foundation requires the balancing of all four pillars.

About King Township

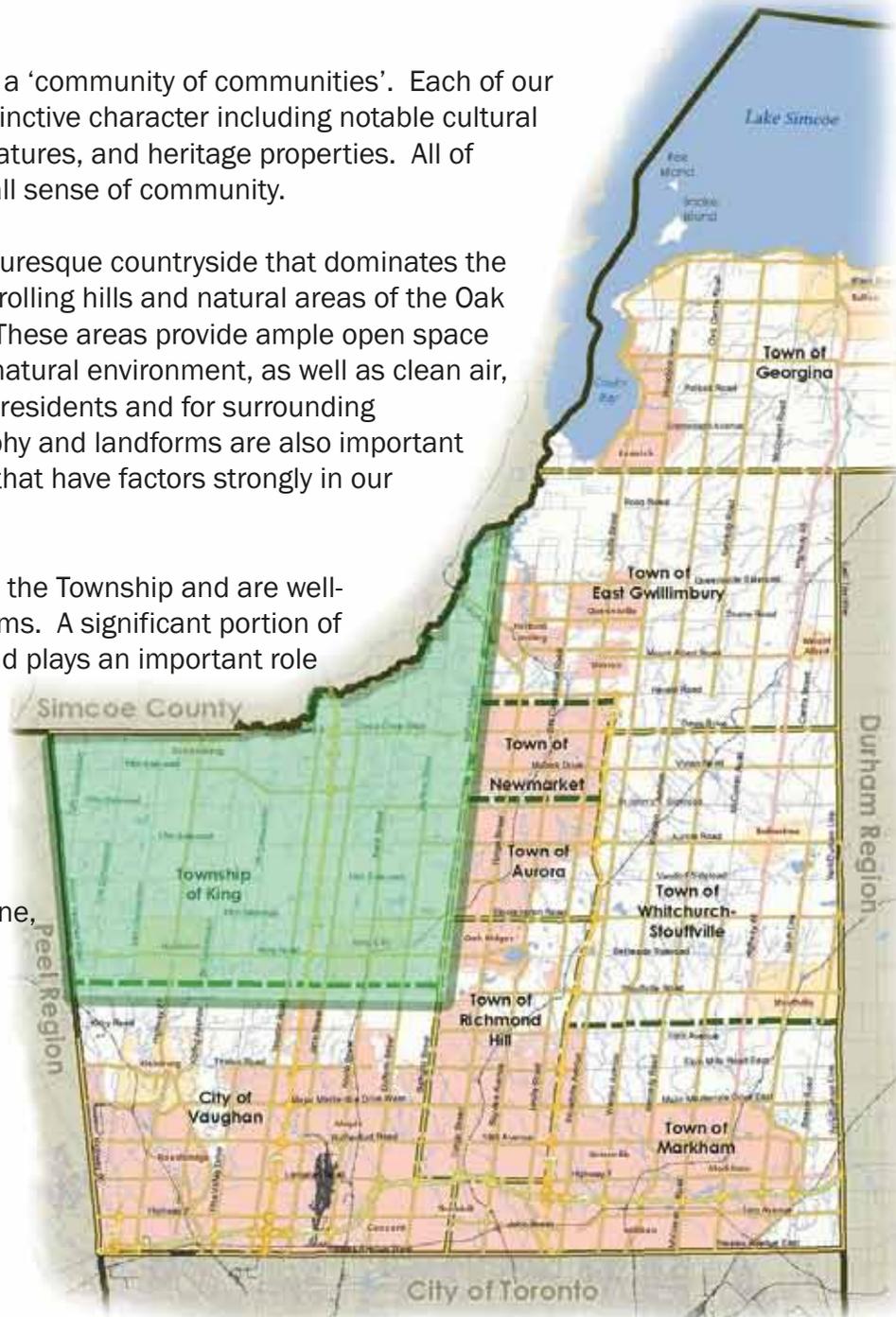
King Township is a unique and special place. We are proud of our extensive natural and scenic beauty, rich cultural and heritage, and the welcoming, small town feel that defines our Township. Located in York Region on the northern edge of the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), our community is about halfway between Toronto and Barrie and covers an area of 333 km² (see Map A). The Township is predominantly rural, with the majority of our residents concentrated in the three villages of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Several hamlets and smaller communities are essential to our rural character: Ansnorveldt, Kettleby, Laskay, Lloydtown, Pottageville and Snowball.

King Township is often referred to as a ‘community of communities’. Each of our villages and hamlets has its own distinctive character including notable cultural and natural landscapes, historical features, and heritage properties. All of this is juxtaposed with a strong overall sense of community.

One of our greatest assets is the picturesque countryside that dominates the Township’s landscape, including the rolling hills and natural areas of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt. These areas provide ample open space for recreation and enjoyment of the natural environment, as well as clean air, water and habitat for wildlife, for our residents and for surrounding communities. Unique soils, topography and landforms are also important features of our natural environment that have factors strongly in our choices relating to land use.

We have a long agricultural history in the Township and are well-known for our horse and produce farms. A significant portion of the Holland Marsh is located here and plays an important role in Canada’s food export market and serves a substantial local market within the GTA.

Map B on page 4 shows the location of the villages and hamlets and the prominence of the Oak Ridges Moraine, Greenbelt and Holland Marsh within King Township.

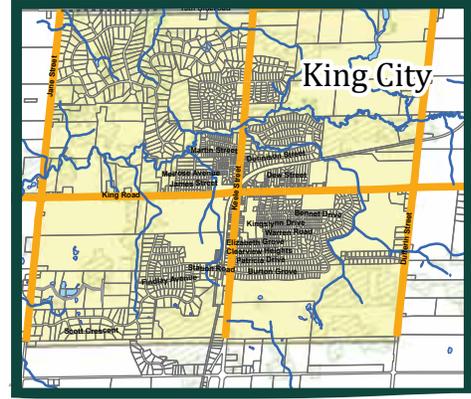
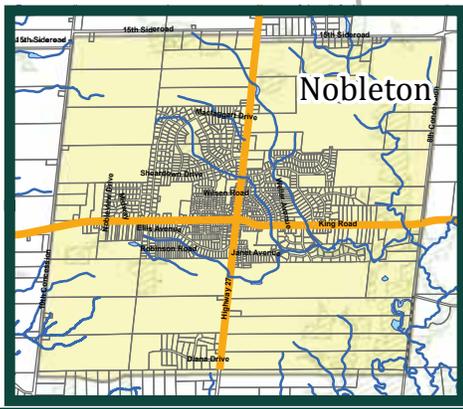
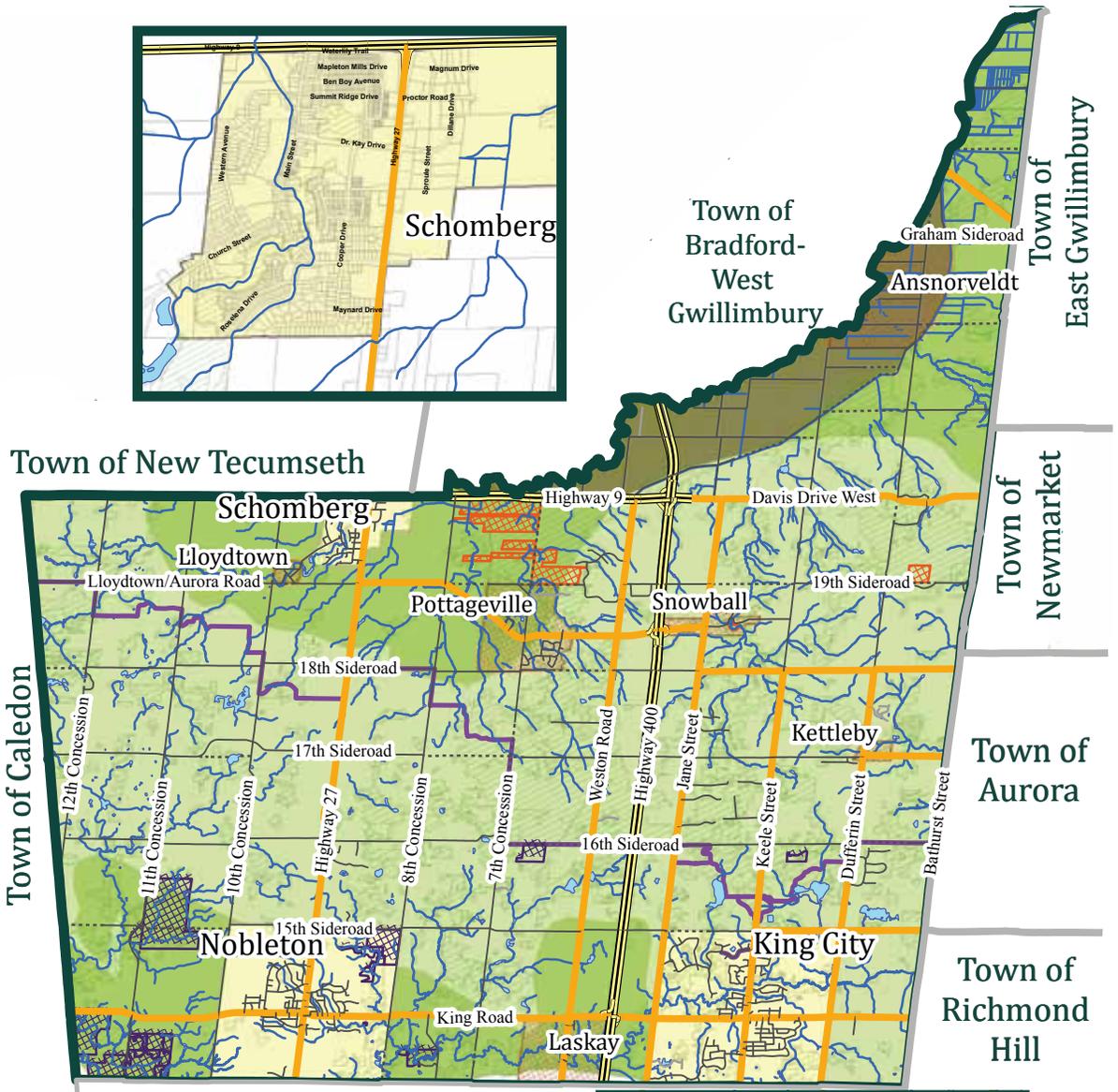
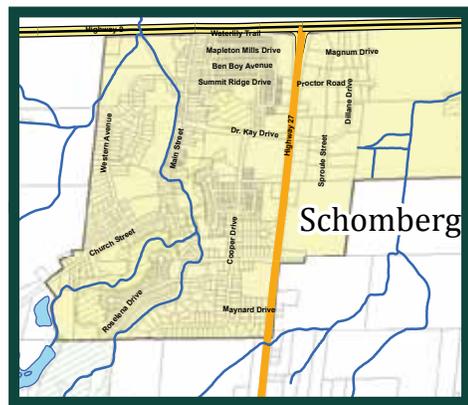


Map A: Township of King in a Regional Context

Map B: Township of King

Legend

-  Municipal Boundary
-  Holland Marsh
-  Oak Ridges Moraine
-  Greenbelt
- Settlement Areas**
-  Village
-  Hamlet
- Features**
-  TRCA Conservation Area
-  LSRCA Conservation Area
-  Regionally Significant Forest
-  Waterbody
-  Watercourse
-  Oak Ridges Moraine Trail
- Roads**
-  Provincial Highway
-  Regional Road
-  Local Road
-  Private Road
-  Unopened Road Allowance
-  Proposed Road



Why the Plan Is Important

Our world is changing. King Township residents, political leaders and municipal staff have come together to map our future. Like other municipalities around the world, we discovered we have significant means at our disposal to achieve higher levels of sustainability. We understand local action has a major impact on the social, environmental and economic well-being of our citizens, and in-turn, can have a global impact.

The Township of King embarked on creating a community-based sustainability plan because it provides a number of benefits for both the municipality and our community. It is different than other municipal plans and strategies because it provides: (1) overall direction for decision-making within the community; (2) the municipality guidance to align future plans, programs, policies and budgets with the Plan, and (3) a potential resource for anyone in King Township who wishes to become more sustainable.

Implementing our Plan ensures that the distinctive features and qualities that make us special are supported, protected, and leveraged over the long-term. Our Plan addresses the challenges and pressures threatening our long-term prosperity and the preservation of our character, including demographic shifts, population growth, environmental degradation, and restricted development opportunities.

By becoming more environmentally, socially and financially resilient, we will be able to mitigate and adapt to global threats that may negatively impact local residents and businesses, including climate change, peak oil, and economic uncertainty.

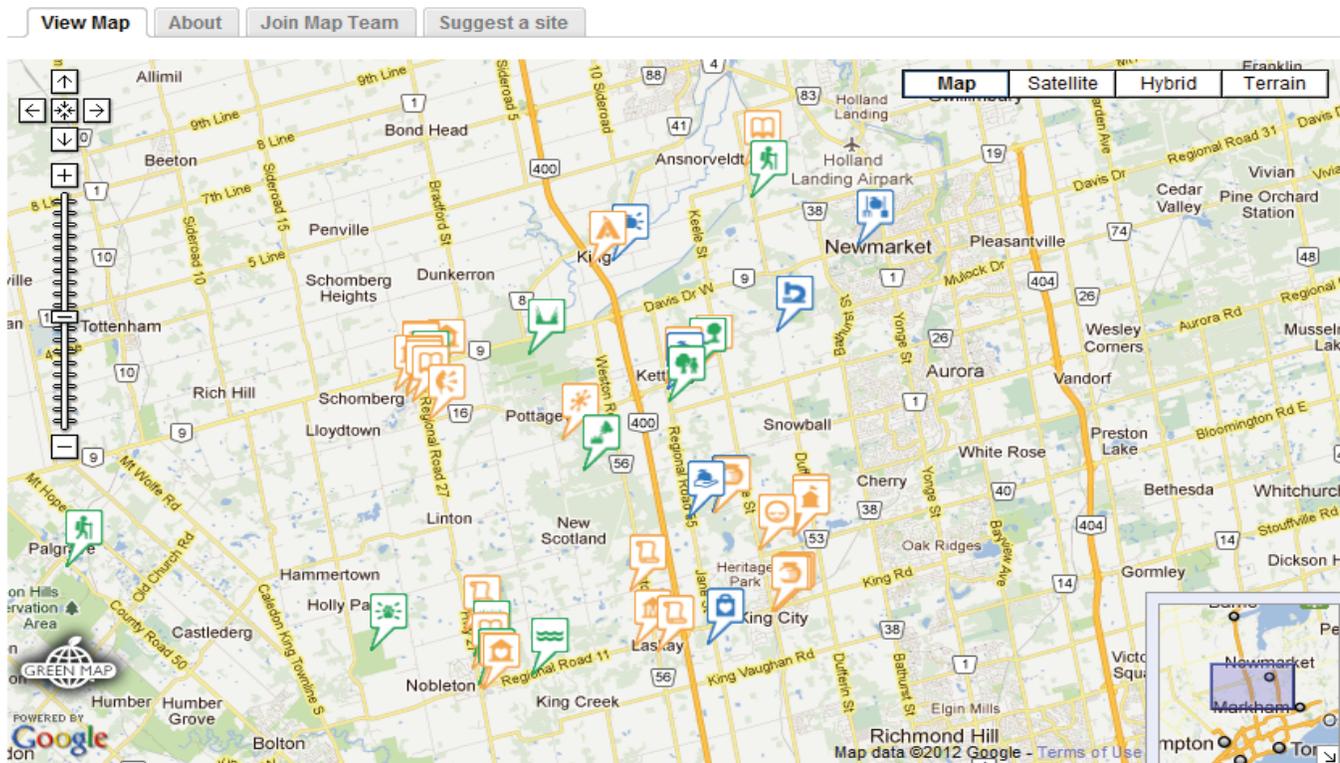


A True Community Plan

Our Plan was developed through extensive community collaboration and consultation. We harnessed the energy, local knowledge and skills of our residents and community groups.

Over 3,000 contacts were made within the community, in various forms, including Working Group meetings, community forums, individual conversations, presentations, mapping sessions, and display booths, as well as online through Facebook, Twitter, a website (www.sustainableking.ca) and an online survey. The response and level of engagement from the community was exceptional.

As part of the community engagement process, residents were asked to identify King Township's assets, or the places and features they thought make King Township special, such as its libraries, community centres, social services, local businesses, parks and trails. These assets are illustrated on the King Township Community Asset Map. As the Plan is implemented, the community is encouraged to continue building its inventory of assets.



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The Holland Marsh, located in King Township, is often referred to as "Ontario's Salad Bowl".

How We Will Ensure the Plan is Successful

Working Together

To ensure the success of our Plan, we must all work together. Positive changes must occur at all levels and from all sectors of the community – including Township Council and staff, local community groups and businesses, educational institutions, other levels of government as well as individual residents.

Community Partnerships

Becoming a truly sustainable place requires the support and cooperation of our entire community. King Township's Sustainability Plan calls upon community groups and organizations to be partners in sustainability, by adopting and endorsing actions in the Plan.

Political Support

The Township of King was responsible for initiating and developing the Sustainability Plan and continues to play an important role in leading its implementation. To be successful, local decision makers, including members of Council and the Mayor must support and endorse the Sustainability Plan. Their role is also to advocate support for the Township, especially from other levels of government.

A Focus on Governance

Sustainability requires a new approach to governance; one which facilitates integration across sectors and promotes creative solutions. The Sustainability Plan encourages collaboration between and among all stakeholder and special interest groups and ultimately advocates for more holistic decision making throughout the Township.

Measurement and Monitoring

Measuring and reporting on our progress are essential to success. Indicators and targets are used to show us how well we are doing in different areas and where we may need improvement.

Flexibility

Being open to change and leaving room for flexibility helps to ensure the Plan remains relevant over the long-term. As economic conditions, federal and provincial policies, climate conditions and other factors change, the Sustainability Plan will need to be updated.

HOW THE PLAN WORKS

4 Sustainability Pillars

A sustainable King Township requires four sustainability pillars: economic, environmental, socio-cultural and financial.

Our Vision

Our vision (pg. 12) describes the ideal future for King Township, and is based on the common values, priorities and aspirations of the community. It serves to inspire, mobilize and guide us towards our desired future.

Themes & Goals

Themes are the specific focus areas of the Plan. The goal statements for each theme describe what the Township will be in our desired future.

Progress Indicators

Indicators are the units used to measure progress over time. Targets are the desired state we are trying to achieve. The potential indicators and targets are found in Appendix B.

Strategies

Strategies are broad, high-level objectives that act as a bridge between where we are in 2012 and where we want to be in 2032.

Immediate Priorities

These are areas where our community has identified the need for immediate action. The priority areas will create momentum and/or require immediate attention.

Potential Actions

These are potential specific initiatives that have been identified by our community as ones to pursue in order to move King Township towards sustainability. Potential actions become 'Actions' once they have an organization to lead implementation, funding sources confirmed, and a method to measure success. Not all potential actions need to be undertaken or implemented to make the Plan a success.

Potential Partners & Resources

For each theme, our community has identified potential organizations, groups, institutions, and businesses as candidates to help implement actions in the Plan. These lists are not to be considered final or exhaustive. One of the early tasks for the Sustainability Committee will be to host discussions with these candidates to confirm and create actual partnerships for implementation. Both the Township of King and Region of York are potential partners for all themes; however, the Plan assumes that individual citizens, community organizations and businesses also have a strong role in its implementation. A broader list of potential partners is included in Appendix D.





Our Vision

King Township is an idyllic countryside community of communities proud of its rural, cultural and agricultural heritage. We are respected for treasuring nature, encouraging a responsible local economy, and celebrating our vibrant quality of life.



Our Values

'Idyllic' – a countryside that is ideal; pleasant; picturesque; peaceful and happy; having ample open and green space; recognizing natural simplicity; and embracing people living in harmony with nature.

'Community of communities' – a collection of villages and hamlets having their own features and aspirations, simultaneously supporting and working with each other towards a common vision.

'Rural' – a characteristic of the country; includes horse farms, main streets, country stores, schools, churches, historic buildings, scenic views, archeological sites; and a small-town feel.

'Agriculture' – associated with cattle, animal farming, crop production, food production equine activities; the land, machinery, skills, knowledge, people and culture that support the industry.

'Heritage' – the legacy of physical artifacts, built form and intangible attributes; their stories and histories that are inherited from the past and given to future generations.

'Respected' – regarded as a leader; admired and recognized by others for our efforts.

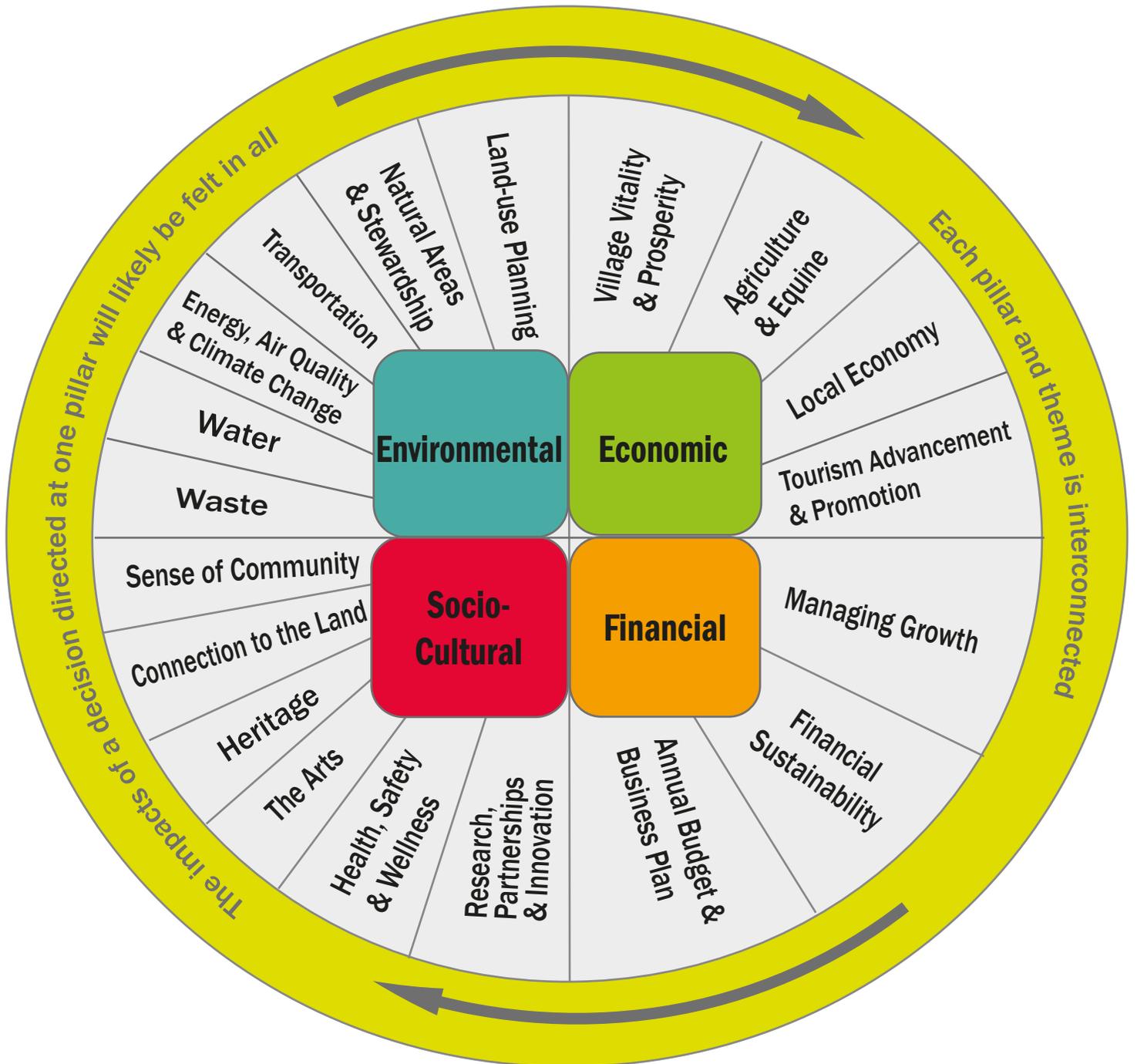
'Treasuring nature' – recognizing the inherent value of nature; being committed to conservation, protection and improvement of our natural assets.

'Responsible local economy' – supporting and encouraging business improvements that respect our values; maintaining what we have; looking after King Township first; creating a sustainable strong, environmentally sound and diverse local economy; managing our municipal finances and assets; embracing effective and inclusive participation, representation, and leadership.

'Vibrant quality of life' – a lively community where people come to live, work, shop and engage in recreational and cultural activities. Created, nurtured and supported by the other aspects of our vision.



PILLARS & THEMES



IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

The following provides a list of 14 immediate priorities identified by the community and the Working Groups for implementation during the initial years of the process. These initiatives are derived from the goals and strategies starting on page 27 and the actions found in the Potential Action Bank in Appendix A. Each priority includes a project lead, potential collaborators, and potential indicators that can be used to measure the progress or success of the initiative. The community has a role to play in the implementation of these priorities and should be recognized as potential collaborators and/or partners for all.



THEME:
Land Use Planning

STRATEGY: Enforce and Strengthen King Township's by-laws and planning policies

PRIORITY: Strengthen the Township of King's planning legislation and by-laws to reinforce environmental protection and public health and safety.

Description:

Ensuring planning policies and by-laws are strong, current, enforceable and based on best practice is critical to their use as a tool to move sustainable action forward. We will update or develop selected planning policies and by-laws to make the Township of King a leader in policy development.

Specific activities could include:

- 1) Review of the Official Plan documents (including Community Plans) and zoning by-law to incorporate urban design and site plan control policies and regulations that are current and reflect each community's values as well as provincial and regional directions.
- 2) Development of new policies, by-laws or standards including:
 - a. Alternative design standard
 - b. Right to light by-law
 - c. Green development standard with a focus on energy and water conservation
 - d. Tree by-law
 - e. Landform Conservation by-law
 - f. Fill by-law
 - g. Dark sky policy

Project Lead:

Township of King Planning, Engineering and By-law enforcement staff

Potential Collaborators or Partners:

The Sustainability Committee can research best practices from other municipalities. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Federation of Canadian Municipalities and Canadian Green Building Council can provide additional information resources.

Potential Indicators:

- Number of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design New Construction (LEED™) certified buildings (or equivalent)
- Number of developments implementing green and safe building standards
- Number of green and safe building promotional materials distributed annually
- Number of developments that implement village design guidelines
- Number of new initiatives supporting the Plan – such as natural and cultural heritage policies, employment land policies, LEED™ or equivalent supportive policies, core area revitalization, transportation policies, housing density targets, or intensification within built boundary

Other Notes:

Updating or developing policies and by-laws was identified by the public as an area of high importance and was confirmed as a top priority by the Environmental Working Group. This priority project has synergies with the financial and economic pillars as green development reduces expenses and demonstrates corporate leadership.



PRIORITY: Develop a strategy for intensification and infill.

Description: Develop a strategy to incorporate intensification within existing communities where transit services exist or where there is planned transit service.

Project Lead: Township of King Planning

Potential Collaborators or Partners The Sustainability Committee can research best practices. The Association of Municipalities Ontario, Federation of Canadian Municipalities can provide information resources.

Potential Indicators:

- Average density of new residential developments
- Number of intensification units developed

Other Notes:

This priority should begin as soon as possible and be closely linked to the update of planning policies and by-laws as they will provide the strategic direction and legislative framework needed to implement this strategy.

This priority is strongly linked to regional/provincial requirements to implement the *Places to Grow Act* (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe) and related policies, which require a minimum of 920 residential units to be built in the Township of King through intensification.



THEME:
Land Use Planning

STRATEGY: Strategically direct planned future growth, intensification, and infill to communities where existing servicing and public transit exists or where there is planned transit service while avoiding key natural heritage and hydrological features.



 **THEME:**
Natural Assets and
Stewardship

STRATEGY:
Identify, protect and
enhance natural
areas, including
wetlands, meadows,
forests and grass-
lands.

PRIORITY: Create a natural heritage inventory.

Description: A King Township specific Natural Heritage Inventory will provide inventories and baseline information to guide planning decisions, inform community organizations, identify gaps, and support decision-making. This inventory could include: soil profiles, source water areas, woodlot locations and sizes, open lands, water recharge areas, evaluated and non-evaluated wetlands, kettle lakes, species at risk, biodiversity (species richness, diversity, occurrence, habitats) and other appropriate natural heritage features. It could also identify trails, protected areas, threatened areas and natural connectivity.

The Natural Heritage Inventory may include an interactive map for residents and the development of a Citizen's Charter to foster public awareness and stewardship collaboration.

The inventory will quantify the value of King Township's ecological goods and services and be used as a tool to support tax allowances/credits as authorized by Provincial legislation. This priority is linked to the finance pillar and can be used alongside the trail strategy.

Project Lead: Township of King Planning Department and GIS technician

Potential Collaborators or Partners:

Much of the information exists at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Authorities Moraine Coalition, Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy Canada, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, Ontario Nature, conservation authorities, Woodlot Associations, Region of York and stewardship councils. It must be assembled into a cohesive King Township specific inventory.

Potential Indicators:

- Percent of land area protected
- Percent of natural areas and parkland protected from encroaching development
- Number of hectares of agricultural land designated for development
- Number of public documents recognizing the Township's provision of ecological goods and services
- Amount and type of funding Township of King receives from other levels of government for provision of ecological goods and services
- Number of trees planted on public property
- Percent increase in survivability of trees on both public and private property planted through development
- Number of bird species observed
- Area and linear extent of contiguous habitat types
- Percent forest cover
- Percent of land under Managed Forest Tax credit
- Linear extent (km) of cold and warm water fisheries



 **THEME: All**
STRATEGY: All

PRIORITY: Create a public sustainability awareness campaign to build community support for implementing the Plan.

Description: A multimedia information and awareness project that highlights existing or new citizen actions that can be implemented at the grassroots level to fulfill strategies in the Plan. For example, home energy audit (how to find information), waste reduction recycling, water use reduction, carpooling, citizen charter, landscaping, stewardship initiatives, citizen science programs, walk to school program, information on active trails and non-motorized transportation, encourage increased use of public transportation (especially with increase of routes), renewable energy sources, well-water/wellhead protection, and so on. This can incorporate an interactive map and information obtained from the heritage strategy.

Project Lead: Township of King and supported by Sustainability Committee

Potential Collaborators or Partners: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), conservation authorities, faith-based organizations and King Township Public libraries.

Potential Indicators:

- Number of groups interested/engaged
- Changes in behaviour (uptake in citizen behaviour change)

Other Notes:

This priority should begin immediately, as it feeds into, informs, and guides other identified priority strategies. It educates King Township residents on the progress and content of the Plan, providing information on who is interested and what they can do, then gives them local actions to implement.



PRIORITY: Conduct an inventory of our assets.

Description: Conduct a comprehensive inventory of assets across the four pillars of sustainability (environmental, economic, socio-cultural and financial). The priority should build on any existing work previously completed to inventory assets. The inventory should include:

- Employment, commercial and agricultural lands and current economic activity

 **THEME:**
 Natural Assets and Stewardship
 The New Economy
 Tourism, Promotion and
 Communications

STRATEGY:
 Multiple

- Cultural and natural assets and how they can be leveraged (e.g., Cold Creek Conservation Area, Pottageville Swamp, Centennial Park and so on); and
- Tourism places – business centres, special events, arts, bed and breakfasts, restaurants, golf courses, villages, and sports and recreational facilities

Project Lead: Township of King and supported by Sustainability Committee and GIS technician

Collaborators/Partners: Conservation authorities, Township of King Municipal Heritage Committee, Arts Society King, King Chamber of Commerce, Village Associations, agricultural groups and organizations.

Indicators:

- Completion of inventory (Yes/No)



PRIORITY: Update and implement village plans.

Description:

- Consider undertaking Community Improvement Plans for each village;
- Consider organizing and creating Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) in each village;
- Make physical improvements to village cores, such as lighting, sidewalks, signage, banners and planters;
- Support the implementation of each of the Village Centre Urban Design Guidelines and/or adopt them as official Township guidelines; and
- Continue participating in the First Impression Community Exchange Program.

 **THEME:**
 Village Vitality and
 Prosperity

STRATEGY: Maintain
 and revitalize King
 Township's villages.

Project Lead: Township of King

Potential Collaborators or Partners: Village Associations, King Chamber of Commerce, property owners, businesses and entrepreneurs.

Indicators:

- Number of businesses registered to King Township addresses
- Local business closures
- Retail vacancy rates



THEME:
The New Economy

STRATEGY: Build on our existing strengths and economic development opportunities to attract businesses that share King Township's values

PRIORITY: Develop and implement an economic development strategy.

Description:

- Evaluate King Township's economic assets and determine opportunities for growth;
- Bring together stakeholders from the business sector to discuss and collaborate on the right direction for King Township's economic future;
- Identify and attract a number of newer, high-growth and higher-wage industries such as health, IT, green business and hi-tech and encourage them to locate in King Township;
- Consider supporting new policies to encourage agricultural value added activities;
- Consider the value of creative industries and new types of working conditions (e.g. working from home) in King Township's future; seek to find a balance with traditional jobs and industry; and
- Build on any previous work undertaken to address this priority.

Project Lead(s): Township of King and King Chamber of Commerce (Note: To be confirmed)

Potential Collaborators or Partners: Village Associations, local business and institutions.

Potential Indicators:

- Number of commercial building permits per year
- Number of new jobs created



THEME:
Sense of Community

STRATEGY: Support, recognize and celebrate our thriving volunteer community

PRIORITY: Host an annual summit for our community organizations to celebrate their initiatives and accomplishments, foster collaboration and encourage new volunteers.

Description: This priority focuses on creating a networking and educational opportunity that builds on King Township's Volunteer Night celebration concept. This includes a series of workshops or presentations led by community organizations discussing their mandates, allowing potential volunteers to get a better understanding and identify how they would like to get involved. The event should be held on an annual basis starting in 2013.

Project Lead: King Township Office of the Mayor and CAO

Potential Collaborators or Partners: King Township's Parks & Recreation Department; 'Volunteer Ambassadors' such as world-renowned leaders in volunteer recruitment who can be involved as keynote speakers for a kick-off event or prominent volunteers in the community who can be involved in recruiting new volunteers.



THEME:
Connection to the
Land

STRATEGY:
Strengthen our
connection with
our food and
farming and
improve access to
local food

PRIORITY: Strengthen our connection with our food and farming communities and improve access to local food.

Description:

Work with other groups within the community to help promote the healthy, local food events that already take place in the Township including the ASK Locavore Bus Tour, Schomberg Farmers Market and Soupfest.

To foster a longer-term direction for local food in the Township, we will begin to identify lands within the Township to create a local community garden to produce locally grown food.

Specific activities could include:

- Educate citizens about the importance of healthy, locally sourced food, farm products and seasonal eating;
- Support, encourage and promote participation in King Township's farm tours and other food-based events;
- Advertise local food farming throughout the community (e.g. pamphlet on local foods) at food-based events;
- Support and encourage the creation of community gardens in each of King Township's communities.

Project Lead(s):

King Chamber of Commerce, Holland Marsh Growers Association, Agricultural Society, Schomberg Fair, Arts Society King (Note: to be confirmed)

Potential Collaborators or Partners:

Seneca College, conservation authorities, York Region Environmental Alliance, and York Region Food Network.

Potential Indicators:

- Number of people attending events (farm tours)
- Number of questionnaires completed
- Number of community gardens and gardeners



PRIORITY: Celebrate, promote and maintain King Township's cultural identity.

Description:

Use the restored train station on the site of the King Township Museum as a Tourist Information Centre. This would be an ideal location as it is accessible and clearly visible from Highway 400. Some additional work would be required (e.g., adding well-marked signage). Volunteers could help run the tourist information centre during the spring and summer months. This venue is already maintained using Township funds.



THEME:
The Arts

STRATEGY:
Encourage and cultivate ongoing appreciation and participation in artistic and cultural activities.

Specific activities could include:

- Promote the use of the King Township Museum as a cultural centre and destination, and a tourist information centre;
- Explore opportunities for adaptive re-use of heritage buildings;
- Have more information regarding the heritage of King Township available on the Township website and/or compile information on a central website; and
- Develop a Culture and Heritage Plan for King Township and facilitate collaboration and community engagement around the approach to cultural planning
 - o Identify an overall vision for culture and heritage; and
 - o Identify opportunities for leveraging heritage assets to promote tourism.

Project Lead(s):

Township of King and King Township Museum (Note: to be confirmed)

Potential Collaborators or Partners:

Volunteers and various community groups in the Township which include Arts Society King, King Township Historical Society, Township of King Municipal Heritage Committee, King Archives, King Township Public Library, and village associations.

Potential Indicators:

- Number of visits to the Tourist Information Centre



THEME:
Heritage

STRATEGY:
Celebrate, promote and maintain King Township's cultural identity

PRIORITY: Establish a Community Arts Centre that can host performances, showcase King Township's art and provide community programming.

Project Lead:

Township of King and Arts Society King (Note: to be confirmed)

Potential Collaborators or Partners:

York Region Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Wallace Foundation, Weston Foundation, School Boards, and Independent Schools.

Potential Indicators:

- Confirmed need and feasibility
- Confirmed venue
- Confirmed funding



PRIORITY: Encourage the use, appreciation and respect of King Township’s natural areas and trails.

Description:

This strategy requires gathering all the information regarding King Township’s trails and having it available on the Township’s website for public viewing, including the trails map from the Parks and Recreation program guide. A promotional campaign/communications strategy would then take place to make residents aware of the Township’s vast trail system and to inform residents and visitors where the information can be obtained. This would promote a healthy lifestyle for Township residents.

Specific activities could include:

- Provide material for the Township website regarding trails available throughout the Township;
- Develop and implement a campaign that promotes the value of ‘green’ exercise to get people interested; and
- Build an adult playground (obstacle course) – as a longer-term priority.

Project Lead(s): King Township Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, conservation authorities and Seneca College (Note: to be confirmed)

Potential Collaborators or Partners: Oak Ridges Trail Association, University of Toronto Koffler Research Centre, Cawthra Mulock Reserve, private property owners and Township of King (website development).

Potential Indicators:

- Number of hits the website receives
- Number of trail visits

 **THEME:**
Connection to the Land

STRATEGY:
Encourage the use, appreciation and respect of King Township’s natural areas and trails.



PRIORITY: Develop strategic partnerships with educational and agricultural institutions to continue to support learning and community development.

Description: Short term activities would focus on creating a committee with membership from schools, universities and research facilities within the Township to identify common interests. This committee’s mandate would be to collaborate and share resources related to shared student and adult learning and integration of sustainability into curriculum.



THEME:
Partnerships,
Research and
Innovation

STRATEGY: Develop strategic partnerships with educational and agricultural institutions to support learning and community development.

In addition, a lecture series on sustainable actions such as solar energy applications, arts, heritage conservation and others featuring knowledgeable residents would provide opportunities to showcase expertise and facilitate the transfer of best practices. These lectures could take place at an educational facility in the Township and be recorded and posted online.

Specific activities could include:

- Promote co-operative programs with schools, universities and research facilities in order to support research and planning initiatives within the Township; and
- Support expansion of community programs and classes, such as classes on growing and cooking of local foods at Seneca College and natural heritage courses at University of Toronto Koffler Scientific Research Institute.

Project Lead(s):

Schools, educational and research facilities in King Township (Note: to be confirmed)

Potential Collaborators or Partners:

Township of King, conservation authorities, University of Guelph Muck Crop Research Station, Seneca College, University of Toronto Koffler Scientific Research Institute and other organizations offering training opportunities.

Potential Indicators:

- Number of lecture series that take place
- Number of people who attend the series or download web content



THEME:
Financial
Sustainability

STRATEGY: All

PRIORITY: Ensure financial sustainability for King Township

Description:

The financial pillar includes a number of specific goals, strategies and actions, all of utmost importance to our long-term future. The immediate priority under the financial pillar includes the following activities that require steps be taken now but recognizes that all are not necessarily achievable immediately and may require longer timelines. The strategies include: achieving a fiscally responsible budget, strengthening our reserves, optimizing revenues from Township assets, practicing cost effective management (using good fiscal management and improved productivity), improving tax assessment equity, and identifying new sources of funding.

Project Lead:

Township of King

Potential Collaborators/Partners:

Educational Institutions throughout the Township, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation, agricultural groups, Provincial Government, and federal grants.

Potential Indicators:

- Ratio of residential/non-residential taxable assessment
- Debt to reserve ratio
- Tangible capital assets
- Operating costs per capita
- Greater partnering/managing of costs and improving service delivery to the residents of King Township
- Continued fiscally responsible budget through greater involvement of local expertise in the budgeting process
- Increase in Municipal Revenues through better management of our assessment and tax base

Goals and Strategies



LAND-USE PLANNING

Where We Are in 2012

Land-use plans and policies are important tools for managing growth, ensuring development safeguards for human health and natural resources and supporting vibrant communities. Given King Township's location within the rapidly growing Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and the vast natural areas and agricultural land, land-use planning tools are especially important for achieving sustainability. Our local governments currently receive guidance on planning matters from the:

- *Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)*;
- *Greenbelt Plan*;
- *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*;
- *Places to Grow Act* (Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe);
- *Region of York Official Plan*;
- *Community Plans* (for King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg); and
- *Zoning by-laws*.

These plans emphasize environmental protection with the objective of maintaining and enhancing, where feasible, the natural systems within the planning areas. Respecting the boundaries for growth set out in these plans will help our communities to manage growth and minimize the impact on the natural environment.

There is general support and consensus from the community that King Township's plans, policies and by-laws will benefit from a review and update to help ensure their strength, clarity and consistency.

In 2006, King Township developed and adopted Village Centre Urban Design Guideline documents for each village which take into consideration compatibility to scale, massing and architectural character of existing buildings. In 2007, King Township developed and adopted a set of Employment Area Design Guidelines to apply to employment areas identified in the various Official Plan documents. Development applications for King Township's villages and employment areas are reviewed in the context of these documents and modified to be consistent with the Council approved guidelines.

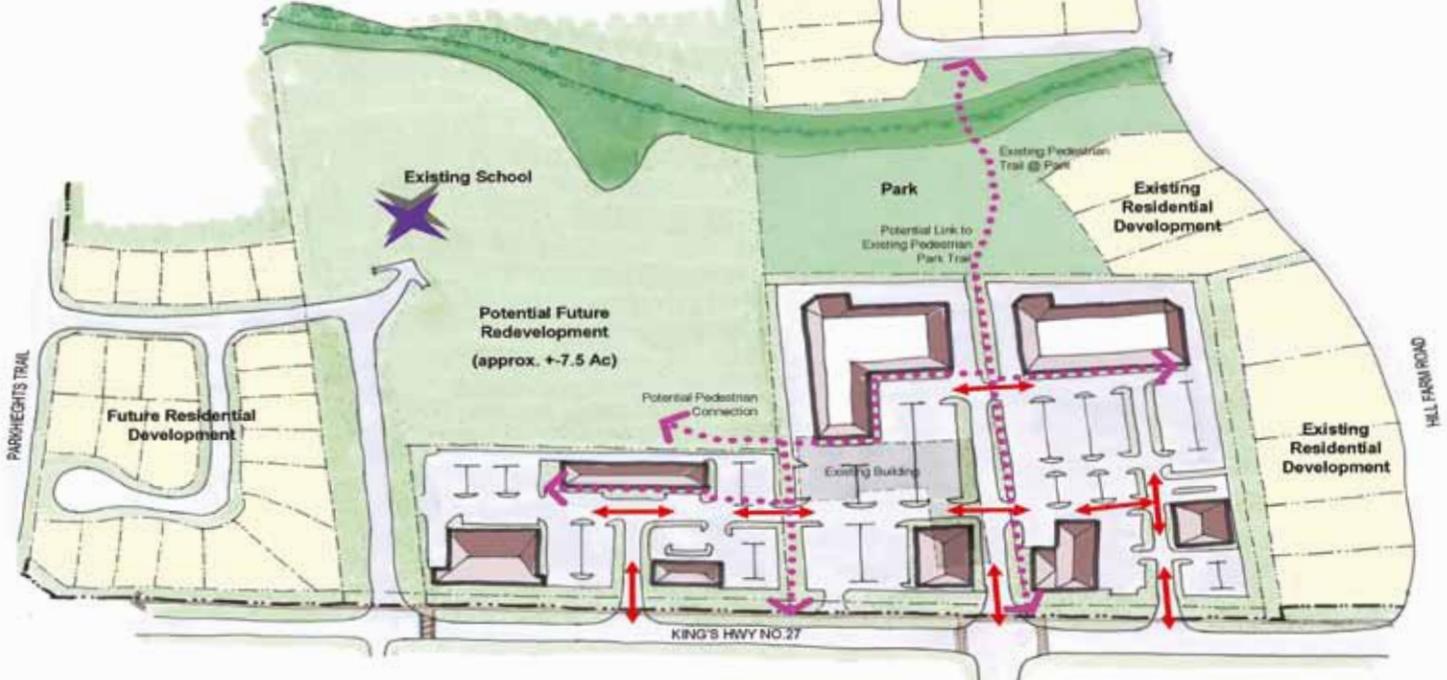
'Green building' is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle, from location to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and deconstruction. Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED™) is a certification program and is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. There are currently two LEED™ buildings in King Township pending LEED™ certification: the Trisan Centre and Shoppers Drug Mart.

The Township has been working to develop a green building policy, recognizing that green buildings improve the efficiency of buildings and reduce the energy and water costs for occupants. Before incorporating green building standards, the Township's buildings must first meet all fire and building code regulations.

The current housing stock is predominantly very low density single detached units. With the new development planned for King Township, it is important to ensure that there is a broader range of housing stock available to better accommodate young families and aging seniors. To protect the environment it is important to make better use of the land within the existing settlement boundaries and ensure better opportunities to live and work in the Township.

Fast Facts

- Land area: 333.31 km²
- Population (2011): 19,899
- Population density (2006): 58.5/km²
- Population density (2011): 59.7/ km²
- Total # of households i: 7,915 (2006)
 - King City: 1,625 (21%)
 - Nobleton: 1,000 (13%)
 - Schomberg: 580 (7%)
 - Outside of Village Settlements: 4,710 (60%)
- % of single family detached homes: 94%
- % of new residential units located within settlement areas (2009): 97%
- Regional target for intensification for King Township (by 2031): 20%



Our Goal

We will support the protection of natural and agricultural areas, while encouraging the revitalization of our three villages. Planning documents, policies, strategies and by-laws will direct growth to our three villages with an emphasis on the village cores, respect public input and have the strength to ensure built development meets or exceeds the best available technology and best practices in green building standards. Strategies will respect public input, and will have the strength to ensure built development meets or exceeds the best available technology and best practices in green building standards.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Identify and measure incoming development.
- ▶ Support and encourage ‘green building’ design, development and construction as well as the adoption of accredited, recognizable standards such as LEED™.
- ▶ Strategically direct planned future growth and intensification, infill to communities where existing servicing and public transit exists or where there is planned transit service while avoiding key natural heritage and hydrological features.
- ▶ Strengthen King Township’s planning legislation and by-laws to reinforce environmental protection and public health.
- ▶ Improve land-use by-law compliance and encourage more consistent by-law enforcement
- ▶ Control future planned growth based on smart growth principles in order to limit our impact on the natural environment.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Land-use Planning.

Sustainability in Action

Construction of LEED™ Buildings

There are two LEED™ buildings pending certification in King Township, including a new Recreation Centre (the Trisan Centre) and Shoppers Drug Mart. Both buildings incorporate green building standards, such as innovative waste water and energy efficiency technologies, water efficient landscaping and solar panels. It is anticipated that the Trisan Centre’s design features will decrease energy consumption by more than 40% compared to the Model National Energy Code for Buildings and will produce about 10,000 kW of energy per year which will be sold to the grid.



Progress Indicator

Number of developments implementing green building standards



NATURAL AREAS & STEWARDSHIP

Where We Are in 2012

Our Township contains some of the most significant and well protected natural heritage lands in all of Ontario. We have several interconnected provincially and regionally significant areas, including seven Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest and many wetland complexes. Unique soils, topography and landforms are also important features of our natural environment.

Nearly 70% of King Township's lands are situated in the protected area of the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) and 98% is within the Greenbelt Plan area, meaning that most of King Township is protected by strong environmental protection policies. Both the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan* and the *Greenbelt Plan* are up for review in 2015, at which time there will be an opportunity to improve and strengthen some of the existing provincial policies. The *Lake Simcoe Protection Plan*, is another layer of environmental policy that directs efforts to restore the health of the Lake Simcoe watershed.

There are two conservation authorities with jurisdiction in King Township: the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA). Both TRCA and LSRCA have developed strategies for natural heritage that propose the protection and restoration of regional systems to improve biodiversity and increase the quality and amount of natural heritage cover. Between 1939 and 1999 the forest cover in King Township increased from 10% to 25%. This growth has helped to improve water quality and increased the length of cold water streams found in the Township.

Wetland protection policies are included as a component of the Regional Greenlands System in the York Region Official Plan, the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan*, the *Greenbelt Plan*, as well as King Township's Official Plan. In King Township, buffers are required adjacent to new developments in order to minimize the impact of development and human activity on nearby wetlands. The Pottageville Swamp, located on the northern slope of the Oak Ridges Moraine, is recognized by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Class I wetland. It has also been identified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area, an Area of Natural and Scientific Interest and is a valued natural asset within our community.

A total of 560 hectares of lands in York Region have been secured through donations, conservation easements, purchases, and other opportunities. In 2006, over 100 hectares of key greenlands were purchased through conservation easements in the Township, securing the first Regional Forest Tract in the western portion of York Region. The Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) protects almost 113-hectares in our community, through land and conservation easements. NCC's long-term goal for the area is to mobilize enough funds to protect and manage a 202-hectare heritage forest in this area. The Oak Ridge Moraine Land Trust also secured over 1342-hectares of land within the Oak Ridges Moraine.

King Township natural heritage system provides ecological goods and services such as storage of floodwaters by wetlands, air pollution absorption, climate regulation, pollination of crops and water filtration. An opportunity exists for King Township to contribute to the growing body of work on valuing natural capital in the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine and to eventually obtain recognition and compensation for the ecological services it provides.

King Township has a number of environmental stewardship and advocacy groups working within its borders contributing significantly to the health and diversity of our natural areas. The Township's Parks, Recreation and Culture department also conducts some stewardship planning and programming and will be conducting more in the future.

Fast Facts

- Approximately 32% of King Township is designated either 'natural heritage system' or 'protected countryside'.
- Happy Valley Forest is one of the largest remaining intact hardwood forests on the Oak Ridges Moraine.
- York Region recently purchased 40.5 hectares (150 acres) of Happy Valley Forest west of 7th concession/south of Pottageville.
- There are 14 rare species identified in King Township.
- In the 1970's, Pottageville Swamp was recognized as an International Biological Programme Site by the International Council of Scientific Unions.



Sustainability in Action

Cold Creek Conservation Area and Stewardship Group

The Cold Creek Stewardship, a community-based stewardship group, partners with the Township of King and the TRCA to protect and manage the Cold Creek Conservation Area. This ecologically diverse natural area offers environmental protection and restoration while also providing outdoor education, cultural and heritage experiences and recreation opportunities. The Conservation Area is managed through self-sustaining revenues and community-based stewardship.

Our Goal

We will be a leader in environmental conservation and be recognized as stewards of Ontario's environmental landscape. Our natural assets, including the Oak Ridges Moraine, the Greenbelt, Happy Valley Forest, Pottageville Swamp, Dufferin Marsh and trail system, will be protected and restored to greater health.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Identify, protect and enhance natural areas, including wetlands, meadows, forests and grasslands.
- ▶ Promote and seek recognition (and eventually compensation from upper levels of government) for the Township of King's provision and protection of ecological and agricultural goods and services.
- ▶ Continue to recognize our wetlands and contribute to their protection and monitoring at the local level.
- ▶ Support the long-term protection and restoration of the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt.
- ▶ Promote environmental education and foster and support individual and community-based stewardship and restoration.
- ▶ Protect and enhance biodiversity.
- ▶ Establish a shared understanding of King Township's environmental significance.



Progress Indicator
Percent forest cover

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Natural Areas and Stewardship.



ENERGY, AIR QUALITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Where We Are in 2012

According to the Provincial government, Ontario can expect average temperatures to rise by as much as 3 to 8 degrees Celsius over the next century, and as a result expect to see significant impacts on our ecosystems and our communities. The Ontario government suggests responding to climate change in two distinct ways: 1) taking action to reduce our production of greenhouse gas emissions and 2) changing the way we do things in order to adapt to our already changing world.

York Region is a member of the Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program and has a Corporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory, Local Action Plan, and is currently developing a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. King Township is also eligible to participate in several climate change programs, including FCM's Partners for Climate Protection and TRCA's Climate Change Action Plan. These programs can help us develop a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change impacts through a series of targets and policy actions that engage stakeholders and the public. Obtaining baseline data on our GHG levels is an important first step to developing a climate change strategy.

The Province of Ontario has set long-term targets to double the amount of electricity from renewable sources by 2025. They have invested \$150 million toward a bundle of green energy programs, tax rebates, and exemptions that help Ontario homeowners fight climate change, conserve energy and adopt green technologies. Ontario's Green Energy Act was created to a) expand Ontario's use of clean, renewable energy (wind, solar, hydro, biomass and biogas); and b) implement a 21st-century "smart" power grid to support the development of new renewable-energy projects and prepare Ontario for new technologies such as electric cars.

Numerous green energy initiatives have been introduced in King Township, such as The Power Pledge Community Challenge and the construction of the King Township's first two LEED™ certified buildings. Continuing the momentum in energy reduction and showing leadership in renewable energy use within our Township is critical to achieving sustainability and meeting the goals of this Plan.

Both provincial and regional policies indicate that municipalities must support improved air quality by planning for efficient use of land, alternative transportation modes, and promoting renewable energy systems. It may be difficult for King Township to affect air quality alone, however, control and reduction in air pollutants is an important endeavour that requires cooperation from all municipalities in the Province and around the world.

Fast Facts

- King Township is a participant in the GTA Clean Air Council.
- Ontario is Canada's leading province in wind power, producing enough electricity to power more than 300,000 homes.
- Number of wind turbines in Ontario: approximately 800 (compared to 10 in 2003).
- In 2010, Ontario attracted \$16 billion in private sector investment in renewable energy generation projects.
- By the end of 2012, it is estimated that up to 50,000 direct and indirect jobs will have been created as a result of the Green Energy Act.



Our Goal

We will achieve a 30 percent reduction in energy demand by 2031. Residents, businesses and the Township will reduce dependence on non-renewable energy through conservation, promotion of renewable energy and the adoption of community-based initiatives. The community will be working towards reducing our carbon footprint and increasing resiliency to climate change.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Build climate change resiliency.
- ▶ Support energy efficiency and safety in all buildings.
- ▶ Show leadership in green energy at the Township level.
- ▶ Encourage energy conservation among residents, businesses and farmers.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Energy, Air Quality and Climate Change.

Sustainability in Action

*Ontario Power Authority's
Count Me In!*

In 2009, King Township was one of 83 communities to participate in a competition to be the most energy efficient in the province. King Township came in 14th for the number of pledges received per capita. King successfully reduced energy use by 7.5% and demonstrated leadership in energy conservation.



Progress Indicator
Greenhouse gas
(GHG) emissions
(CO²)

Where We Are in 2012

Policy direction for transportation is provided by the *Provincial Policy Statement (PPS)* under the *Planning Act*, which indicates that planning for infrastructure must be integrated with planning for growth to meet current and projected needs. It directs municipalities to maintain connectivity within and among transportation systems, to minimize the length and number of vehicle trips and support the development of viable choices for public transit and active transportation modes.

The York Region Transportation Master Plan defines a long-term vision for transportation in York Region and provides a framework for transportation decisions to the year 2031. According to the Plan, the 2031 transit network for King Township includes rural transit links between Schomberg, Nobleton, and King City (see Map C on page 34). York Region also has Transit-Oriented Design Guidelines that provide direction for development in a way that responds to the needs of transit users and the transit service itself.

A number of other transportation studies are currently in progress that will have a significant impact on King Township, including the York Region Mid-York East-West Transportation Corridor and Preliminary Engineering Study in order to create additional east/west lanes across mid York Region. The identified target area is from 18th Concession to Kirby Road. In addition, York Region is assessing King Road between King City and Nobleton to identify the need for changes to improve traffic flow. There are a number of other transportation studies underway that could result in a number of new roadways throughout the Township:

- Highway 427 Extension (MTO);
- Highway 427/Highway 50 Boundary Area Study (Peel);
- Highway 400 widening from King Road to Highway 9 detailed design (MTO); and
- GTA West Corridor (MTO).

York Region Transit (YRT)/Viva provides public transportation across the nine municipalities of the Region, as well as easy access to transit systems in neighbouring regions including Toronto, Durham and Peel. YRT/Viva services in King Township are currently limited with some service into King City and to Seneca College and St. Thomas of Villanova College. GO rail service is available to King City through the Barrie-Bradford GO line; however there is limited service and parking infrastructure to accommodate the current demand. GO Bus service currently goes through Nobleton twice a day.

York Region has a Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan intended to guide the development of a comprehensive pedestrian system and an off-road, region-wide cycling network. There are a number of proposed bike lanes and proposed signed routes in King Township outlined in the Master Plan.

King Township's three villages and hamlets could benefit from an increase in the number and types of links between village cores and parklands and recreational spaces. New and improved sidewalks and pathways in both existing and new neighbourhoods are important for addressing safety issues and encouraging more active transportation.

Fast Facts

- Mode of transportation to work in King Township (2006):
 - Car, truck, van as driver: 7,995 (84.6%)
 - Car, truck, van as passenger: 685 (7.2%)
 - Public transit: 350 (3.7%)
 - Walked or bicycled: 350 (3.7%)
 - All other modes: 65 (0.7%)
- % of paved lane roads in King Township rated as being in good condition (2009): 44%
- Km of trails in King Township (2009): 49km
- Total Township owned and maintained roads: 300 km
 - Rural = 202 km
 - Semi Urban (e.g., Pottageville) = 40 km
 - Urban = 54 km



Our Goal

There will be an increase in transit services and active transportation options that will enable King Township residents to move more efficiently throughout the community and beyond.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Improve public transportation services and facilities to meet the needs of all age groups, income levels and mobility needs.
- ▶ Ensure the design, construction, use and maintenance of King Township roads follow sustainable practices and minimize impacts on the environment.
- ▶ Make King's villages more walkable and improve connectivity between subdivisions, parks, schools, businesses and other amenities.
- ▶ Reduce the impact transportation has on King's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
- ▶ Reduce traffic on our roads and discourage the use of King Township as a thoroughfare.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Transportation.

Sustainability in Action

Smart Commute

King Township is part of Smart Commute Central York, a program to reduce single occupant vehicle trips, pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Through this program, the Township has established a Carpool Zone in its office parking lot, as well as an online ride-matching service.



Progress Indicator

Average number of scheduled bus and train departures (could use transit service kilometres per capita or mode of transportation to work)

Where We Are in 2012

Water is a matter of provincial interest under the *Planning Act* and an objective of the York Region Official Plan, York Region Water and Wastewater Master Plan, York Region Long Term Water Conservation Strategy, York Region Vision 2026 Strategic Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, among other regional and provincial plans.

York Region policies, the King Township Official Plan and the more detailed Community Plans are supportive of protecting water sources. They identify policies and criteria for the protection and improvement of ground and surface water quality and quantity, stormwater management and aquatic habitat. Both the TRCA and LSRCA contribute to watershed protection and restoration, as well as the monitoring of watershed health. Watershed management is an important part of selecting and maintaining cost-effective water supply with minimal impact on the environment.

Within King Township, King City is the only community serviced by Lake Ontario – water supply is provided through York Region water infrastructure. The rest of the Township is dependent on groundwater sources from the Oak Ridges Moraine. King Township owns and operates four drinking water distribution systems in King City, Schomberg, Nobleton, and Ansnorveldt, while the remainder of the Township is serviced by private wells. King Township is implementing a Drinking Water Quality Management System (DWQMS) based on the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (2002) and O. Reg. 170/03 to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to our residents, businesses, and visitors.

The Province, Township, Region of York and the Conservation Authorities work together to protect our source water from contaminants through policies, programs and monitoring industrial discharge. Under the *Clean Water Act* (2006), local Source Protection Authorities are required to develop source water protection plans that will set policies on how to reduce, eliminate, or prevent significant threats to drinking water sources. King Township's municipal planning documents must conform to the Source Protection Plan policies.

York Region's *Water for Tomorrow* program aims at lowering demand for water through leakage reduction, water audits, retrofits, education and outreach, and a watering by-law restriction. King Township already structures water rates to encourage conservation. Reducing the demand on municipal water and wastewater treatment facilities through water efficiency and conservation efforts will directly reduce energy use and protect our many streams, rivers and lakes.

York Region supports King Township in providing waste water treatment facilities. Each of King Township's three villages has a municipal wastewater system. The Community Plans now require that all new subdivisions must be within the planning area of these three villages such that the subdivisions can be serviced by the municipal wastewater systems.

Stormwater management criteria are outlined in King Township's Community Plans, based on the best practices at the time they were developed and approved by the Township and Conservation Authorities. York Region's Official Plan has the objective of using innovative techniques to ensure the careful management of stormwater. It also contains a policy to work with local municipalities and the LSRCA to prepare and implement comprehensive stormwater management master plans for each settlement area within the Lake Simcoe watershed by June 2014. The LSRCA also has Stormwater Management Master Plan Guidelines. Additional stormwater and waste water policies will likely be included in the Source Protection Plans.

Fast Facts

- Number of stream corridors in the ORM that meet the ecological target of 75% natural vegetation coverage = 1/3.
- Number of wastewater main backups per 100 km of wastewater main (2009): 5.71
- Number of watermain breaks per 100 kilometers of pipe (2009): York Region: 0.32; King Township: 16.67
- % of total electricity costs from water and waste water facilities (York Region): 58%
- In York Region every resident uses an average of 250L of water each day.



Our Goal

We will protect, manage and maintain groundwater quality and the health of our rivers and lakes. By year 2031, there will be a 30 percent reduction in water demand per person achieved through water conservation and efficiency initiatives, increased public awareness, source water protection and behaviour change.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Minimize contaminants to surface and groundwater from stormwater collection and discharge systems.
- ▶ Protect surface and groundwater sources in order to continue to provide healthy drinking water and protect the ecological features and functions of the watersheds.
- ▶ Promote domestic, agricultural and commercial water conservation.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Water.

Sustainability in Action

York Region's Water for Tomorrow Program

York Region's Water for Tomorrow program works with residents and business owners to improve water conservation and efficiency by offering personalized seminars, hosting annual events and providing financial incentives. Ongoing water conservation and efficiency initiatives and programs include the Long Term Water Conservation Strategy, a Sustainability Strategy, Water Efficiency Master Plan and a Water and Wastewater Master Plan Update.



Progress Indicator

Number of surface and groundwater sources that fail to meet provincial water quality standards



Where We Are in 2012

The following Act and Policy guide recycling and waste reduction in King Township:

- The *Waste Diversion Act* (2002) – which promotes the reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste, and provides for the development, implementation and operation of waste diversion programs. The Act is currently being reviewed and the Province is proposing to move towards a zero waste future.
- The Ministry of the Environment's Policy Statement on Waste Management Planning: Best Practices for Waste Managers (2007) – recommends that long-term waste management plans should be integrated with other on-going strategic plans (e.g. growth plans, environmental or sustainability plans), and coordinated with the 5-year Official Plan review (or when 10 years or less of disposal capacity remains).

Over the past several years, King Township has launched a number of successful waste reduction programs and initiatives, including:

- Reducing curbside garbage collection to a two bag limit;
- Introducing Blue Box recycling and source separated organics;
- Participating in the Call2Recycle program since 2009, diverted hundreds of pounds of electronic waste from landfills; and
- Phasing out the Miller Sideroad landfill site.

King Township has one of the few remaining active landfills in York Region, predominantly for agricultural waste.

Fast Facts

- The Ontario Ministry of the Environment established a provincial goal of 60% waste diversion.
- King Township currently diverts about 65% of its operational waste away from the landfill.
- Residential waste generated in York Region (2009): 350,429 tonnes; 339 kg/capita.
- Waste disposed in York Region (2009): 150,732 tonnes (43.0%); 146 kg/capita.
- Waste diverted in York Region (2009): 199,696 tonnes (57.0%); 193 kg/capita.



Our Goal

By year 2031, King Township residents and businesses will reduce overall solid waste disposal, while maximizing recycling, composting, and energy recovery contributing to an overall waste diversion target of 75 percent.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Raise public awareness about our consumption habits and promote waste management solutions.
- ▶ Decrease total annual tonnage of solid waste disposed in landfills.
- ▶ Explore opportunities to convert bio-mass into energy.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Waste.

Sustainability in Action

Call2Recycle

King Township is now participating in the *Call2Recycle* program, which allows for easy rechargeable battery and cell phone recycling. Two collection boxes were set up in the main entrance of the Township foyer and in the west entrance of the Township building. Over 44 kg of rechargeable batteries and used cell phones have been collected for recycling since the start of the program. The Township also partnered with King Bible Church to collect e-waste, giving all proceeds to King Food Bank.



Progress Indicator
% of solid waste diverted



VILLAGE VITALITY & PROSPERITY

Where We Are in 2012

The villages of King City, Nobleton, and Schomberg are the commercial cores or hubs of economic activity within the Township. These are the places where people come to shop, do business, and participate in social and cultural activities.

Community Improvement Plans are valuable planning tools that can help municipalities, residents, business owners, and investors to plan for the revitalization, redevelopment and stabilization of their neighbourhoods.

King Township's Village Design Guidelines provide guidance for community design and physical improvements in village cores that support existing businesses and attract new retail establishments.

The King Chamber of Commerce promotes a healthy, sustainable and environmentally responsible business climate, by providing regular networking events, educational seminars and administrative support. The Chamber participates in community outreach initiatives and advocacy for small business concerns of their members.

The various village associations in King Township are our local ambassadors for the business community and provide a local point of contact for residents, existing businesses and potential new businesses.

Fast Facts

- King Township businesses by size: (2011)
 - Small (1-19 employees): 327
 - Medium (20-99 employees): 45
 - Large (100-499 employees): 16
 - Very Large (500+ employees): 0
 - Total Businesses: 388



Our Goal

We will have a strong local economy, where existing and new businesses prosper and the commercial and retail needs of King Township residents are met locally.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Maintain and revitalize King Township's villages.
- ▶ Promote, grow and retain existing local businesses.
- ▶ Attract and encourage the development of new businesses in our village cores, such as small scale shops, services and restaurants.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Village Vitality and Prosperity.

Sustainability in Action

Our Village Associations

Several of King Township's villages and hamlets have local village associations, including Nobleton, Schomberg and Kettleby. These volunteer organizations are dedicated to improving their communities, driving commerce and promoting community spirit. They can provide a local point of contact for residents and potential new businesses looking to locate there. For example, the Schomberg Village Association organizes the traditional "A Main Street Christmas" celebration each December, and works with other groups and associations in the Schomberg area. The Nobleton Village Association recently launched a new website, with a focus on encouraging business and tourism to locate in Nobleton.



Progress Indicator

Number of new and existing businesses



AGRICULTURE & EQUINE

Where We Are in 2012

We have approximately 300 agricultural farming operations that employ more than 600 residents. There are also 374 horse farms in King Township, making it the municipality with the largest horse industry infrastructure investment in Ontario.

Agriculture and equine are more than just industries in King Township – they are part of our natural and cultural heritage and a way of life. Agriculture also plays a critical role in promoting and safeguarding human health by providing access to fresh, local produce, decreasing our reliance on foreign food, lowering consumption of fossil fuels for transportation, and protecting the countryside from sprawl and development.

Portions of the Holland Marsh are located in King Township. Based upon provincial soil analysis and current agricultural production, the Holland Marsh area is deemed to contain some of the most fertile soil in the country and as a result produces a significant percentage of produce consumed in Ontario. Primary production activities in the Holland Marsh are estimated to generate in the range of \$35 to \$58 million in Gross Domestic Product annually and between \$95 million and \$169 million of economic activity in the provincial economy.

All three levels of government support the protection of agricultural lands, and promote agricultural industry as essential components of the economy. *The Greenbelt Plan* (2005) protects the agricultural land base and the ecological features and functions of the countryside by identifying where urban development should not occur.

A key to economic viability of farming in Ontario is building a local sustainable food supply chain. This means developing and investing in new markets and supporting infrastructure for agriculture, such as processing and distribution facilities and regional food hubs. Several regional and provincial organizations, such as the Friends of the Greenbelt and the Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee (GTA AAC), are working to achieve results in this area.

There are a number of initiatives and organizations in Ontario that focus on helping the public understand the benefits of local food and encouraging residents, businesses and the public sectors to 'buy local'. For example, Farmfresh.ca is a website that connects consumers to farmers.

The Province of Ontario offers business training workshops and funding for farmers. For example, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) offers a Farm Property Class Tax Rate Program.

Fast Facts

- On average, one Ontario farmer produces enough food to feed 120 people for an entire year.
- Total number of farms in King Township (2006): 293
- Total Area of Farms (2006): 18,636 ha
- Average size of farms (2006): 64 ha
- Total number of operators (2006): 410
- Total greenhouse area in use (2006): 999,478 m²



Our Goal

Agriculture and farming will be an economically viable and prosperous industry, recognized for its contribution to sustainability. We will promote and celebrate local food.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Support and grow a robust agricultural industry.
- ▶ Consider supporting new policies to encourage agricultural value-added activities in King Township.
- ▶ Support the production, consumption and sale of locally grown food.
- ▶ Leverage King Township's equine industry to support economic health and protect farmland from development pressures.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Agriculture and Equine.

Sustainability in Action

The Holland Marsh Growers Association

Holland Marsh farmers are shifting fresh vegetable production to the local market. In the past, Holland Marsh farmers focused mostly on growing carrots, onions and celery. A new program builds on efforts to diversify crop production to meet the wider demand across the Greater Golden Horseshoe. Farmers in the Marsh are already growing more than 40 different vegetables ranging from red and green leaf lettuce, endive, celery and spinach to bok choy, Asian radishes and kohlrabi.



Progress Indicator:
Total economic value of local agricultural products and services (\$)



LOCAL ECONOMY

Where We Are in 2012

The Township recognizes that in order to achieve economic prosperity and overall sustainability, it must create new jobs and economic opportunities within the Township. Ideally, residents should be able to live, work and play in King Township. The question then becomes, what kind of economy or jobs do we want to create, and given our local circumstances, how are we going to do this?

In King Township, the vast major employment lands are found within the existing Community Plans or built up areas of King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Within these areas, there are approximately 93 hectares of vacant employment land, as well as several opportunities for infill development and intensification. In order to remain economically sustainable, we need a better understanding of our employment lands and we also need to better understand employment sectors in association with the Growth Plan targets.

In 2007, King Township developed the Employment Area Design Guidelines to provide a vision of how future employment lands could be designed and integrated within the countryside and village settings, as well as to identify what types of employment uses are suitable in which areas.

Much of our employment is concentrated within a few sectors. The largest sectors being education, health and social services, followed by recreation, accommodation, food and other services, and manufacturing. Most of our knowledge-based workers commute to Toronto, Markham and Mississauga for work. Major employers in King Township include: Seneca College, Brookdale Treeland Nurseries Limited, First Student Canada, Showa Canada Inc., Clublink Corporation, Cardinal Golf Club, Robert B. Somerville, King Valley Golf Club, and the Kingbridge Centre.

The Township recognizes that economic development in the community must build on its existing strengths and assets, such as agriculture, research and educational centres of excellence, as well as its proximity to the GTA. There are also opportunities to attract industrial investments that align with the values and priorities of our community in terms of being environmentally and socially conscious, such as health, IT and research and innovation.

Fast Facts

- Total number of businesses in 2011: 388
- Average annual business growth between 1998 and 2009: 3.5%
- The seven golf courses in King Township represent 17.5% of the employment base.
- Annual average business growth from 2008 to 2009: 9.7%
- There are 3 major designated or zoned industrial and commercial areas available in the existing Community Plans:
 - King City Community Plan: ~ 90+ acres
 - Nobleton Community Plan: ~ 40 acres
 - Schomberg Community Plan: ~ 60 acres
- King Township offers employment for a total of 7,060 people (1.53% of York Region's total employment). This number is projected to increase to 11,910 by 2031 and maintain the same proportion of York Region's employment.



Sustainability in Action

The King Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber of Commerce currently has over 200 members, who operate throughout King Township. They have several strategic initiatives that contribute to economic development in King Township, including:

- Facilitating communications with the membership and with the public at large;
- Providing educational and networking opportunities; and
- Investigating and implementing strategies that promote local business retention and expansion. They also have a business directory, which is available to the public.

Our Goal

There will be a clear vision and strategy for driving economic growth, built on community collaboration and engagement. We will proactively attract and strategically plan for new businesses that are compatible with the community's values and priorities.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Understand the capacity, gaps and opportunities of our employment lands and employment base.
- ▶ Build on our existing strengths and economic development opportunities to attract businesses that share King Township's values.
- ▶ Develop a strategic, coordinated and proactive approach for attracting and generating the businesses that provide good quality of life and well-paying jobs for King Township residents.
- ▶ Encourage economic development toward green businesses and support the use of sustainable practices in businesses.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Local Economy.



Progress Indicator:
Employment levels (# jobs)



TOURISM ADVANCEMENT & PROMOTION

Where We Are in 2012

Many rural communities are turning to tourism as a solution for enhancing economic development and improving productivity. There are wide-ranging benefits for the community, including job creation, new business opportunities, opportunities for youth and preservation of natural and cultural heritage.

The Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation (OTMPC) collaborates with local and international tourism partners and colleagues to develop and deliver integrated, research-driven marketing and tourism strategies based on market trends. The York Tourism website is a good reference for residents and visitors. It lists a variety of urban and country experiences and amenities in the Region.

King Township's natural and cultural assets provide valuable opportunities for building the tourism economy and bringing visitors to the community. The diversity of attractions could include: heritage tours, studio tours, cultural events, nature-based tourism/ecotourism, and agri-tourism. Elite conference and meeting facilities include Eaton Hall (the former Eaton Estate) at Seneca College, The Kingbridge Centre and the YMCA's Cedar Glen Conference Centre.

RTO6 (includes York Region, Durham and the Hills of Headwaters) is a not-for-profit, industry-led, collaboratively managed organization with a goal to support and grow tourism through the provision of strategic leadership and active partnerships with government and key stakeholders.

RTO6's objective is to position Ontario as one of the world's preferred tourism destinations and to double provincial tourism receipts by 2020.

Fast Facts

- York Region is part of Provincial Regional Tourism Organization 6 (RTO 6).
- York Region statistics:
 - Total tourist visits (2009): 2,889,000
 - Total overnight visits (2009): 892,000
 - Total day visits (2009): 1,997,000
 - Total visitor spending (2009): \$289,414,000



Our Goal

We will be a destination for environmental, cultural and recreation-based experiences that have a measurable value to the community. We will promote and capitalize on our considerable strengths, including the uniqueness of the Township's villages and hamlets, the strong arts community and stunning natural assets.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Develop and build a local tourism industry.
- ▶ Leverage and promote our natural assets for attracting eco-tourism, culinary and recreation/nature-based tourism.
- ▶ Attract visitors by leveraging and promoting our cultural assets.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Tourism, Advancement and Promotion.

Sustainability in Action

Township of King's New Website

The Township of King's official website was recently re-designed, making it more user-friendly and informative for residents, businesses and visitors. The site provides up-to-date information on community events, attractions and local issues, as well as access to Council agendas, minutes and Township plans, policies and by-laws.



Progress Indicator
Annual tourism revenues (\$)



SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Where We Are in 2012

King Township residents put a high value on our sense of belonging and the friendly people that live in our communities. Our community strengths include:

- A strong network of volunteers, clubs, associations and organizations (i.e., community groups, heritage groups, resident and village associations, environmental groups, etc.) who contribute to enhancing various aspects of our community;
- King Township Public Libraries are one of our main community gathering spaces, offering a variety of educational and cultural programs, services, a wide-range of print and digital resources, and electronic and internet services;
- Community centres, halls and outdoor locations where the community can congregate and hold community events. Having places where people can meet, socialize, and enjoy recreational activities is important for supporting a sense of community in King Township.

Other considerations for strong sustainable communities include affordable housing, accessibility, and support for low-income families. A full mix and range of housing, including emergency shelters, affordable housing for low and moderate income families, and special needs accommodations, is critical for sustainability, as it allows residents to live and work in their communities through all phases and stages of life. York Region promotes the provision of a range of housing types and requires a minimum of 25 percent of new housing units across the Region to be affordable.

King Township established an Accessibility Advisory Committee in the fall of 2002 and developed the Township's Accessibility Plan in 2003 as a 'living' document, identifying and setting targets for the removal of barriers for people with disabilities. Ensuring that King Township's halls and facilities meet accessibility standards requires a continued focus and effort on improving accessibility. A further consideration as we move towards sustainability is the soon to be legislated requirement for all multi-unit residential housing to be accessible under the Accessible Build Environment Standard (AODA) by 2025.

The King Township Food Bank provides non-perishable food to those requesting assistance in King Township. It is important that disadvantaged and low-income individuals and families are recognized, supported and made to feel welcome in King Township.

Fast Facts

- Social Housing facilities in King Township include:
 - Kitchen Brendon Manor (32 seniors apartments with 13 modified units for people living with disabilities).
 - Kingview Court (27 existing senior apartments plus 39 new units under construction)
 - Nobleview Pines (26 senior apartments)
- King Township has a generally older age profile (39.4 years) than York Region (36.0 years) and the Province of Ontario (37.2 years).
- The King Township Public Library's four branches are located in Ansnorveldt, King City, Nobleton and Schomberg. Community members can also access the Library virtually at www.king-library.on.ca.



Our Goal

We will be a ‘front porch’ community – a place where people know and interact with their neighbours, feel a sense of belonging to their community and participate in cultural activities and civic issues.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Support, recognize and celebrate our thriving volunteer community.
- ▶ Reinforce open decision-making, strong responsive municipal leadership and seek to engage the public in community and civic issues.
- ▶ Provide places and spaces for the community to meet, socialize and enjoy recreational activities.
- ▶ Strive to be an inclusive, welcoming and complete community.
- ▶ Provide affordable and accessible housing options for a range of income levels, age groups and household sizes (e.g. seniors and young families).
- ▶ Promote a youth friendly community that builds, attracts and retains young talent.
- ▶ Showcase and promote King Township’s attractions, programs, activities and events.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Sense of Community.

Sustainability in Action

Volunteer Appreciation Night

Every spring, King Township hosts a Volunteer Recognition Night showing appreciation for the community’s volunteers. Council invites nominations for awards to recognize volunteer contributions and achievements in several categories, such as Citizen of the Year Award, Special Recognition Award, Lifetime Achievement Award, Senior Citizen Award of Merit and Youth Award of Merit.



Progress Indicator
Volunteerism
(measurement TBD)



CONNECTION TO THE LAND

Where We Are in 2012

To be a sustainable community requires that individual citizens understand and respect the earth's natural systems. Being connected to nature and recognizing our dependence on it helps us to order our priorities in a way that allows us to live within nature's limits. Simply put, people will protect what they love.

King Township is known as a green community, and a place that respects and values the natural environment. We have an opportunity to build on this, creating a shared identity or brand centered on the environment.

Our vast natural areas, open space and many trails provide opportunities for experiencing and connecting with nature, including the King City Trail system, the Oak Ridges Moraine Trail, Happy Valley Forest, and Cold Creek Conservation Area. These areas are well used by many residents for nature walks, hiking, and other recreational activities. Promoting and encouraging our residents, as well as those from surrounding communities, to use King Township trails, parks and natural areas will help to maintain and enhance our connection with nature and improve sustainability in our community.

"Connection to the Land" also means recognizing and appreciating how our food is grown and where it comes from. There are many local and provincial organizations and non-governmental organizations who are promoting local food, such as the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, York Region Food Network and Foodshare. These programs are working to make local food products more widely and easily available as well as encouraging people to buy from local sources.

King Township already hosts several nature and food focused events, such as Bird Walk on the Dufferin Marsh, Cold Creek Day, Schomberg Agricultural Fair, Soupfest, and Feast of Fields. Arts Society King also hosts several food and nature based events, such as the ASK Locavore 20 km Diet Bus Tour, and an environmental movie series. Maintaining, enhancing and building on these events will help us to achieve a stronger connection with the land.

Fast Facts

- There are a number of farms in King Township that are open to the public, including:
 - Puck's Farm
 - Holland Marsh Wineries
 - Pine Farms Orchard & Winery
 - Country Apple Orchard
 - Round the Bend Farm
- Community trails in King Township include:
 - King City Trails System - East and West
 - Oak Ridges Moraine Trails
 - Cold Creek Conservation Area
 - Fox Trail
 - Nobleton Trail System
 - Pottageville Park Trail
 - Centennial Park Mountain Bike Trails



Our Goal

King Township residents will have a strong connection and appreciation for nature and agriculture. There will be a strong 'cultural brand' or shared identity among residents, centered on nature, history, and sense of community.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Encourage the use, appreciation and respect of King Township's natural areas and trails.
- ▶ Promote the use of King Township's parks and trails more widely.
- ▶ Host special events that celebrate the natural environment.
- ▶ Strengthen our connection with our food and farming and improve access to healthy local food.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Connection to the Land.

Sustainability in Action

Holland Marsh Soupfest

The 4th Annual Holland Marsh Soupfest event was held at the Holland Marsh Winery in 2011, organized in partnership with King Township, Bradford West Gwillimbury and the Holland Marsh Growers Association. Guests are able to sample soups made with locally grown produce, prepared by local restaurants, farmer and talented chefs.



Progress Indicator
Number of trail connections



Where We Are in 2012

Our cultural heritage is one of our greatest and most valuable assets. The buildings, cultural traditions, artifacts and landscapes that have been passed down from previous generations enrich and enhance our quality of life and sense of place. They help us to know our roots, give context and meaning to our built environment and can provide guidance as the community grows and changes.

The Ontario *Heritage Act* gives municipalities and the provincial government powers to preserve the heritage of Ontario through the protection of heritage properties, districts and archaeological sites through designations. There are 30 heritage properties in King Township designated under the Ontario *Heritage Act*, and many others are recognized as having heritage value. The Act allows designation of a heritage district when there is a cluster of heritage features. There are currently no heritage districts in King Township.

The Township has a long list of potential properties that have been identified as possibly having heritage value. The Township has embarked on a process to review the current inventory and consider placing properties on the Municipal Register or designating them. Research has shown that across Ontario, in both urban and rural areas, heritage conservation can be economically competitive, leading to higher property values, more jobs and revitalized neighbourhoods.

The Village Centre Urban Design Guidelines encourage development to fit with the existing character of King Township's villages and hamlets. Other valuable planning tools that can be used by municipalities to protect and celebrate its heritage include Cultural Landscape Inventories and Cultural and Heritage Plans.

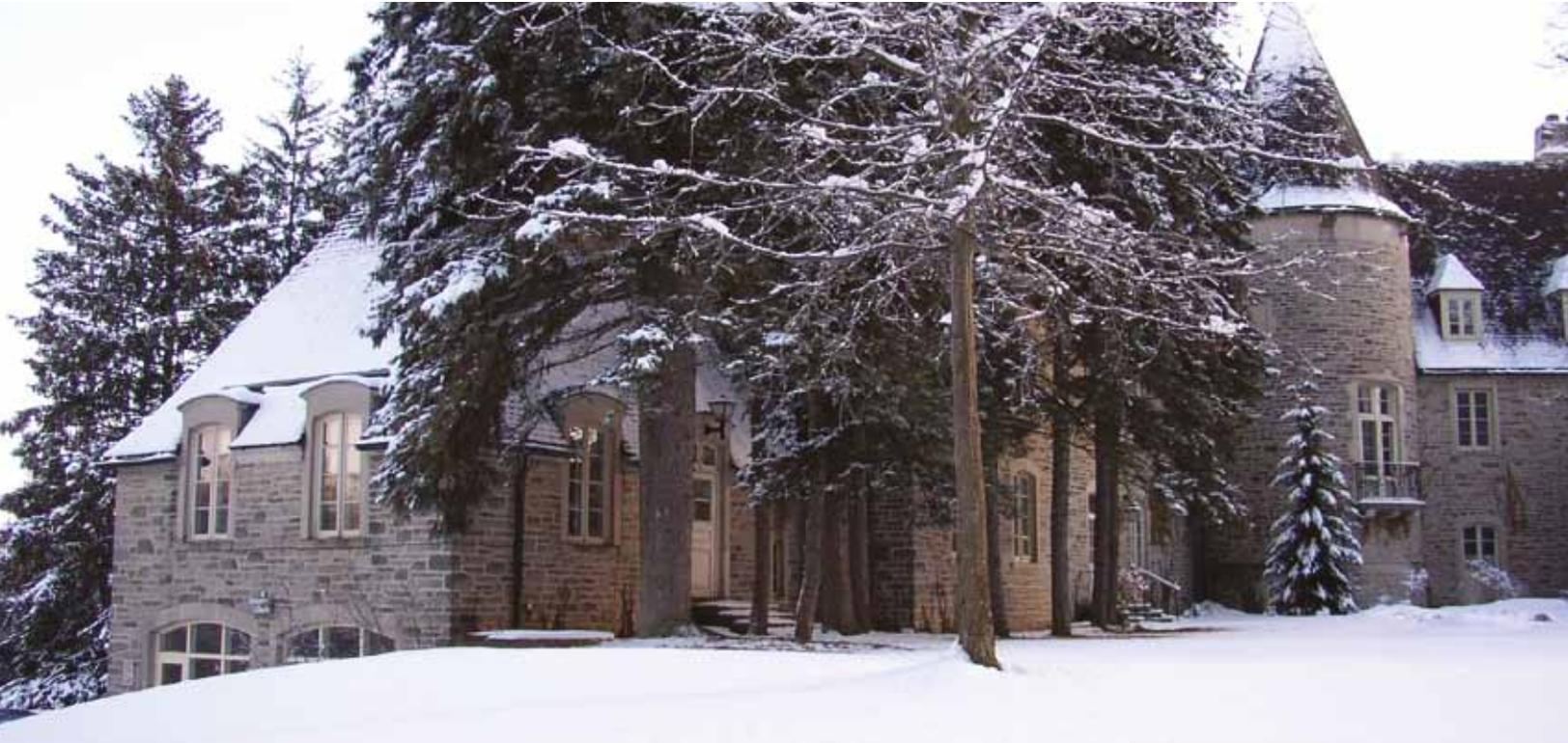
The Township of King Municipal Heritage Committee advises Council on local heritage matters and assists the Council in carrying out its heritage conservation program. Other community organizations, such as the King Township Archives, King Township Historical Society and Laskay Hall also contribute to the preservation and promotion of the Township's heritage.

The King Township Museum provides cultural heritage education and interpretation and a place for King Township's numerous artifacts ranging from household items to tools, books, clothing, toys, etc. portraying the history of the Township. There are opportunities to work with, expand and build on the Museum's role in the community, making it a centre for cultural interpretation within the Township and a destination for both residents and visitors.

In addition, the King Township Archives provides a centralized location for local historical information on families, organizations and enterprises in King Township. The Archives are maintained through a partnership between the volunteers of the King Township Historical Society and the Board of the King Township Public Library.

Fast Facts

- There are 30 designated heritage properties in King Township.
- King Township was named by Simcoe in honour of Major John King, English Under-Secretary of State. The area remained sparsely settled until the building of roads in the 1820's improved travel.
- The population of King Township in 1800 was 20 residents.
- The population in 1871 was 7,481.
- Part of the Toronto Carrying Place (also known as the Humber Portage or Toronto Portage) is in King Township.



Our Goal

Our cultural and built heritage will be respected by the entire community. Conservation and re-use of heritage buildings, sites and landscapes will be a priority for the Township.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Celebrate and promote King Township's cultural identity.
- ▶ Protect and preserve King Township's heritage buildings, historical sites and landscapes.
- ▶ Foster continued support for heritage within the Township.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Heritage.

Sustainability in Action

Adaptive Re-use of the Postmaster House

The Postmaster House is an 1860's building that was once the home of the Nobleton postmaster, William Munsie. Recently, it has become the home of King Music Centre, Arts Society King and Humber River Shakespeare. The space is available to community groups for meetings, ticketed events and art shows.



Progress Indicator
Number of properties used for adaptive re-use



Where We Are in 2012

We have a thriving arts sector that provides a range of opportunities for creative expression and builds social capital within our community. It also has a positive financial impact, bringing visitors to King Township and creating cultural opportunities for those visitors.

Current features of our arts community include:

- Art and culture-based events held in King Township throughout the year – e.g. Arts Society King (ASK) organizes an annual month long festival, hosting discussions, documentary screenings, studio tours, heritage walks, as well as other special events throughout the year. Their events showcase and encourage participation in arts, heritage and nature in King Township;
- Kingcrafts, a visual arts guild that has been in existence since 1951 and provides a place where people are brought together by their common interest in the arts (painters, potters, stained glass makers, jewellers, weavers and several other disciplines);
- A long list of professional artists who call King home; and
- ASK sponsors an annual Studio Tour and a juried exhibition and sale, called The Schomberg Village Street Gallery.

Continued support for King Township's artists and promotion of their work within and outside the Township will help to maintain a vibrant and financially strong arts community.

There is momentum within the Township to continue cultivating the arts, culture and heritage facets of the community. Not only will this reap economic rewards and employment opportunities, but it will also instill pride in our community and heritage and showcase our talented and creative people. The goals and strategies within this theme, as well as other themes, focus on celebrating, maintaining and harnessing this momentum.

Fast Facts

- Kingcrafts is a non-profit organization founded by Lady Muriel L. Flavelle in 1950.
- York Region Arts Council is a non-profit, charitable umbrella organization that serves to advance, promote, represent and connect the arts community across the region.



Photo credit: Grege Locke

Sustainability in Action

Schomberg Village Street Gallery

Arts Society King organizes the Schomberg Village Street Gallery annually. It is a two-day outdoor, juried exhibition and sale of fine art, held in Schomberg's historic downtown. This ASK event showcases King Township artists and provides opportunities for artists to sell their work.

Our Goal

King Township will continue to be the home of a thriving arts community, where people have ample opportunity to experience, participate in, and make a living from art and culture.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Encourage and cultivate ongoing appreciation and participation in artistic and cultural activities.
- ▶ Leverage our artistic assets and maintain a financially sustainable arts community.
- ▶ Develop the organizational capacity to support the arts.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to The Arts.



Progress Indicator:
Number of King Township residents participating in arts and culture events



HEALTH, WELLNESS & SAFETY

Where We Are in 2012

A healthy community is an active community that has access to appropriate levels of health care for its entire population. Ontario's Action Plan for Healthy Eating and Active Living presents four key strategies to make healthy living and eating easier for all Ontarians, including: 1) growing healthy children and youth; 2) building healthy communities; 3) championing healthy public policy; and, 4) promoting public awareness and engagement.

Existing recreational opportunities in our community which contribute to our health and well-being include:

- King Township Parks, Recreation and Culture Department programs for participants of all ages;
- Three community recreation centres in King Township (Trisan Centre, Dr. William Lacey Nobleton Community Centre and Arena, and King City Arena). The Trisan Centre provides fitness programs and houses the Township's active Curling club; and
- Over 10 km of trails and a private lake for canoeing, sailing, kayaking and swimming at Seneca College. Their Outdoor Centre has over 700 acres of land, situated on the Oak Ridges Moraine, and offers a wide range of outdoor programs for elementary and secondary schools, community groups and corporate clients. It also accommodates the King Day Camp.

Despite these opportunities, there is room for improvement. Low participation rates, because of our small population, can often lead to cancellation of certain programs yet we are aware there is a need for adequate fields for soccer and baseball. Our youth have identified a need for more youth-focused activities and recreational opportunities (e.g. a new skate park). We also need to ensure our active seniors community has adequate facilities and opportunities for recreation.

We are looking at creative solutions to maintain and improve our recreation services in King Township, while also ensuring our programs remain accessible, affordable and within a reasonable travel distance for our residents.

The Local Health System Integration Act, 2006 changed the way Ontario's health care system is managed by creating 14 Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs). LHINs are not-for-profit corporations that act as a multi-stakeholder regional planning unit taking full responsibility for health services in their communities. The Central Health Integration Network services King Township. The health unit in King Township is York Region Public Health Services.

There are 24 additional long-term care facilities in York Region, one of which (King City Lodge) is located in King Township.

The Province of Ontario has recently approved the building of a new hospital near King Township, in Vaughan, Ontario. This investment is expected to drive the health care industry in the area.

Fast Facts

- Three Emergency Medical Service stations are located in and service King Township.
- Community and recreation centres in King Township include: Trisan Centre, Dr. William Lacey Nobleton Community Centre and Arena and King City Arena.
- King Township has 109 ha of municipal parks and 49 km of trails.



Our Goal

We will be a place where physical and mental well-being of residents is maintained and enhanced through local and regional policies and services. Healthy active lifestyles for residents of all ages, cultures and abilities will be valued strongly by the Township, and will be supported by community partners and the private sector. The Township will continue to be one of the safest, lowest-crime communities in Canada.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Maintain and enhance public safety, fire, security and emergency services.
- ▶ Encourage and support an active lifestyle.
- ▶ Improve overall health of residents and ensure the availability of accessible and equitable health care services for all residents.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Health, Wellness & Safety.

Sustainability in Action

The King City Seniors Centre

The King City Seniors Centre is a place for seniors to socialize and take part in recreational activities. There are leisure activities as well as stimulating learning opportunities designed with seniors in mind. Activities include: Carpet Bowling, Shuffleboard, 5 Pin Bowling, Badminton, Line Dancing, Art Classes, Fitness Classes, Computer Classes, Card Games, Darts, Billiards, Monthly Pot Luck and Movie, Annual BBQ Supper, Travel Club, Speakers, Special Guests, etc.



Progress Indicator
Average participation in recreation programs



RESEARCH, PARTNERSHIPS & INNOVATION

Where We Are in 2012

Our community has a number of excellent educational and research institutions, such as:

- University of Toronto Koffler Scientific Reserve at Jokers Hill –the site of many ongoing research projects, including studies in forest ecology, soil ecology, biological invasions, plant defences, fungal biodiversity, pollinating insects, plant reproductive ecology, and ecological impacts of global change;
- The University of Guelph Muck Crops Research Station – located in the Holland Marsh, it is the largest area of organic (muck) soil developed for agriculture in the province and one of the most intensive areas of agricultural production in the country. The facilities at this station include a plant pathology lab, green houses with ebb and flow benches and computer monitored environment, cold storage facilities to provide the specific requirements for long term storage of onions and carrots and several sites for field research;
- Seneca College, King Campus Gate House – currently the home to the Oak Ridges Moraine Foundation, Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust and the Oak Ridges Trail Association;and
- The Kingbridge Meeting Conference Centre and Institute provides services for effective learning and innovation.

We also have many excellent elementary and secondary schools. These institutions play an important role in the development of our youth, and offer community resources in terms of human capital and knowledge. Many of King Township's schools have active co-op programs, which can be leveraged to help achieve many of the goals in this Plan.

The King Township Public Library offers a broad scope of traditional and state-of-the-art programs and services. Residents can access a wide spectrum of material, including print and electronic research databases; reading material in a variety of formats ranging from print to downloadable audio and e-books, movies, music and more. Material can be accessed in-person, online or through mobile apps and QR Codes.

There is an opportunity for us to catalyze the research and ingenuity of these institutions, especially in the areas of climate change, agriculture, and bio-technology. By fostering and supporting partnerships we can drive innovation and development in the Township through applied research and incubation of new ideas.

Fast Facts

- Seneca College, King Campus has an approximate enrolment of 3,100 students.
- There are four libraries in King Township: one in Ansnorveldt, one in King City, one in Nobleton, and one in Schomberg.



Our Goal

We will facilitate strategic partnership and collaboration within and between sectors in order to foster innovation, job creation and prosperity.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Maintain excellence and accommodate growth in the education sector.
- ▶ Examine opportunities to add value to existing agricultural and environmental sectors by leveraging King Township's institutional assets.
- ▶ Use King Township's natural assets to support research and innovation.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Research, Partnerships and Innovation.

Sustainability in Action

Partnership with Seneca College

Seneca College has received \$43 million in provincial funding to develop a master plan for the campus. This includes revitalizing some of the existing buildings, expanding training services and creating classroom space for an additional 1,450 students at the King City campus. The funding allows for the creation of more spaces for interaction with the community including opportunities for community gardens, shared recreational facilities and joint trails.



Progress Indicator: Number of individuals/businesses involved in Sustainability Plan projects



MANAGING GROWTH

Where We Are in 2012

Based on provincial growth targets allocated for King Township, our population is expected to grow from 21,400 to 34,900 by the year 2031. Understanding and quantifying growth will allow us to project expenditures and King Township's potential to generate income to cover those expenditures.

A comprehensive overview of the population and growth statistics is being conducted in conjunction with the Township Planning Staff, based on the regional figures and targets.

Continuing to develop a financial model will go a long way to define where we are and where we need to go in order to meet the regional population and employment targets. It will help to determine if we will have sufficient resources available in the medium term, and whether we can cover costs during that period. The Township can use this information to help define specifics such as intensification, tax base, and servicing.

Fast Facts

- Population (2011): 19, 899
- Population projection for 2031: 34,900
- % anticipated growth by 2031: 72%
- Employment (2006): 7,100
- Anticipated employment growth: 68%
- Employment Projection for 2031: 11,900
- Residential tax rate (2010): 1.03
- Commercial tax rate (2010): 2.22
- Industrial tax rate (2010): 2.53

Our Goal

King Township will efficiently and effectively manage its finances in a way that accounts for future growth trends.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Develop a financial model based on regional growth targets.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Managing Growth.

Sustainability in Action

The Township's 10 Year Capital Plan

The Township of King's ten-year capital plan is comprised of the expenditures for the acquisition or repair and replacement of the tangible capital assets (TCA) of the municipality. Tangible capital assets are non-financial assets having physical substance. This Plan will help Council to prioritize investment for the next decade



Progress Indicator
Ratio of residential/
nonresidential taxable
assessments



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Where We Are in 2012

Financial sustainability can be understood as generating enough income to meet expenditure needs. A financially sustainable system is generally one that is efficient, and minimizes consumption of resources, while still meeting the needs of its customers.

Municipal governments generally rely upon local property tax, intergovernmental aid and charges for local services for the majority of their revenues. Compared to other municipalities, our commercial tax base is low - on average municipalities have a 80/20 ratio of residential to commercial assessment, while King Township has a 96/4 ratio. The low commercial assessment base and amount of taxes this can produce creates concerns and some challenges for King Township. Attracting industrial and commercial development and expanding the employment base is important. Plans are underway to determine if a review can be undertaken on both the assessment 'equity' issue and the possibility of going to business licensing (e.g. home businesses) as a way of obtaining additional revenue streams.

King Township has significant unfunded financial liabilities pertaining to the management of its roads. Specifically, the roads will age and deteriorate unless additional funds are identified to maintain them. Lack of maintenance, in turn, exposes King Township to risk. Some roads may be better managed by York Region. Such needs will need to be assessed in context of all aspects of sustainability (i.e. the socio-cultural, environmental, economic as well as financial impacts) need to be considered.

King Township is currently looking at the recreational facilities, community halls, libraries, administrative buildings, as well as the operating budget shortfall to determine where there are gaps and how we might be able to add additional facilities. The review includes looking at alternative funding mechanisms or opportunities to partner with institutions in the Township, such as Kingbridge Centre, Country Day School, St. Thomas of Villanova College, or Seneca College and potential common use opportunities between the institutions for shared facilities and joint ventures.

The re-assessment of rural lands and large acreages would identify properties not being accurately assessed. Higher assessments and appeals of market value assessments (based on observed sale prices) also have potential for significantly improving municipal finances. Other financial instruments, such as partnerships, the sharing of resources and facilities, and being more energy and resource efficient within Township facilities will also support financial sustainability.

There are many promising opportunities for helping King Township to achieve financial sustainability. Knowing how to manage our financial resources as well as seeking new revenue sources is essential to achieving financial sustainability as is knowing how to generate income. Efficient procedures for administration and finances will help us make the most of our resources.

To achieve the financial goals in this Plan, King Township should have a strong financial plan and stick to it. The Sustainability Plan is an important tool for guiding future municipal expenditure decisions.

Fast Facts

- Total financial assets (2010): \$17,286,926
- Cash: \$9,480,503
- Taxes receivable: \$5,235,570
- User charges receivable: \$562,063
- Accounts receivable: \$2,008,790
- Total financial liabilities (2009): \$46,407,749
- Accumulated surplus, end of year (2009): \$112,488,671
- Cash provided by operating activities (2009): \$7,789,473
- Change in net debt (2009): \$6,693,497
- Ratio of residential /non-residential taxable assessments is 96% residential and 4% non-residential.



Our Goal

King Township will be financially stable and resilient, with a sufficient tax base to support our needs.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Improve management of Township finances and assets.
- ▶ Improve tax assessment equity.
- ▶ Identify and obtain new sources of revenue and funding.
- ▶ Find opportunities for cost savings in municipal spending, while maintaining or improving quality of life.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Financial Sustainability.

Sustainability in Action

Rebuilding Our Reserves

King Township has made a commitment to rebuild our reserve fund. Council has approved the 2012 Budget & Business Plan, which includes a 1% contribution to Infrastructure related reserves in an effort to try to rebuild this reserve over time



Progress Indicator:
Debt to Reserve ratio



ANNUAL BUDGET & BUSINESS PLAN

Where We Are in 2012

Every year, Council must consider and prepare a yearly budget, which ultimately determines how money is spent that year. How the Township's budget is structured, invested and managed plays an important role in moving towards a prosperous and financially sustainable King Township.

Community participation in the budget process – in both the short term and long term – is important to ensure that the budget reflects the values and priorities of the community. There are currently a number of opportunities for the public to give input in the business planning process, such as attending budget meetings or sending emails/ letters. Improving public participation in the budgeting process will help to improve accountability and transparency.

Fast Facts

- 2012 Operating Budget:
Proposed 2012 gross expenditures:
\$25,438,423
Proposed 2012 gross revenues:
\$24,068,634
Township net operating: \$1,369,789
Impact on average home assessed @
\$607,709: \$223

Our Goal

We will maintain a fiscally responsible budget that is structured to reflect the needs and priorities of the community for the short, medium and long-term.

How Will We Get There?

- ▶ Maintain a fiscally responsible budget that strengthens our reserves, optimizes revenues from Township assets, practices cost effective management, respects the priorities of the community and meets long term financial sustainability goals.
- ▶ Promote transparency and community participation in decisions about the Township budget.

Actions

See Appendix A for a list of potential actions related to Annual Budget & Business Plan.

Sustainability in Action

New Budget Process

The Township adopted a new budget process for 2011, which was aimed at providing decision makers, Members of Council, with more information (qualitative and quantitative) to ensure that an informed decision regarding the 2011 budget could be made. New initiatives included in the 2012 budget are: Implementation of the Sustainability Plan, a Policy Planning Planner, Museum Strategic Plan and a Trail Study/Plan.



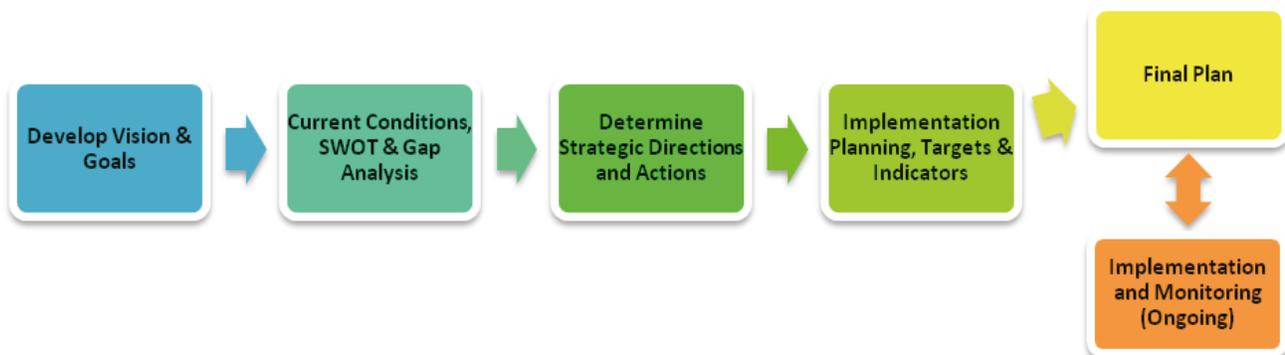
Progress Indicator:
Fiscally responsible budget

HOW THE PLAN WAS DEVELOPED

Stages of Plan Development

There were several key phases to the development of our Sustainability Plan, with each phase built on the previous one. Key steps in the development of the Plan included:

- Identifying a long-term vision and goals for sustainability;
- Conducting current conditions research and gap analysis, looking at relevant provincial, regional and municipal plans and strategies;
- Identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, based on current conditions;
- Determining strategies and potential actions to achieve our goals;
- Prioritizing actions and strategies and determining priority projects;
- Choosing potential indicators and targets for measuring our progress; and
- Preparing the Final Plan and defining the Implementation strategy.



Who Developed the Plan

Conversations with the community occurred at every stage of the planning process. Input was received using various engagement activities and with a range of stakeholder groups. The following outlines the key groups who contributed to the Plan's development.

The Sustainability Task Force

Consisting of the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, members of Council, Senior Management Staff, and four citizen Ambassadors representing public interest in the four sustainability pillars. The Task Force was responsible for guiding development of the Sustainability Plan and providing overall direction on all facets of its development.

Citizen Working Groups

Created for each of the four pillars of sustainability, these groups had in-depth dialogue regarding specific focus areas of the Sustainability Plan and provided decision-making support to the Task Force. The Working Groups met regularly, and consisted of members of the broader community, representing resident, landowner, Township staff and community interests of King Township.

King Township Staff

King Township senior staff provided essential input and advice at various stages of the Plan, including current conditions assessment, gap analysis, and development of potential actions, potential indicators and the implementation model. Members of the Township's Senior Management Team were appointed to the Sustainability Task Force.

Stakeholders

Representatives from local businesses, community groups, institutions and other organizations in the Township of King all contributed to the Plan's development. Various activities were conducted throughout the planning process to engage stakeholders and provide them with meaningful opportunities to provide feedback, such as workshops, online surveys, interviews and a public forum. The input received from these individuals and groups has ensured that the Plan reflects the needs, realities and values of our community.

General Public

This includes residents, youth, seniors, farmers, and tourists, among others, from all areas of King Township. Community collaboration and outreach activities were conducted with these groups in order to obtain feedback from the community members at all stages as well as foster a shared understanding of sustainability and the Sustainability Plan.

FRAMEWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Our Sustainability Plan is a living document, intended to guide us on our path to sustainability over the long term. A strong focus on implementation, governance, and monitoring is essential to our success. The organizational model supporting the implementation of the Plan can be characterized as 'Municipal-led and Community supported'. The benefits of this model are that it focuses on getting sustainability actions in place. It allows the municipality to share the responsibility of the Plan, and leverages the work and human capital of community groups. It also focuses effort on priorities identified through public consultation.



Organizational Design - Roles and Responsibilities

Sustainability Committee

It is recommended that a Sustainability Committee be established to guide the implementation of the Sustainability Plan. The Committee, appointed by King Township Council, is made up of individuals from the community and ex-officio Council members. The Committee will work with, advise, and support Council and community groups implementing the Plan. They will take the necessary steps to recruit and engage businesses, developers, community organizations, other stakeholders and the larger community to undertake the Plan's actions as well as receive and vet requests from community groups looking to undertake actions within the Plan.

Members of the Sustainability Committee will be selected through a formal recruitment process. Members will be drawn from the community filling +/- three seats per sustainability pillar for a total of twelve to fifteen seats. The four current Ambassadors will be included in the initial Sustainability Committee.

Members of the Committee will be required to ensure there is a balanced and synergistic approach taken to implementation where goals, strategies or actions move forward from across the four pillars and where opportunities for synergies across pillars are explored.

Township Committees that have traditionally supported King Township are encompassed within the Sustainability Committee. The exception will be any Committee that is statutory (Committee of Adjustment) or helps the Municipality administer legislation (Township of King Municipal Heritage Committee, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act).

For more information, please see the Terms of Reference for the Sustainability Committee.

King Township Staff

The support and participation of all levels of Township staff is essential for the success of the Plan. Staff from all departments and levels will use the Plan as a guide or framework for decision-making, as the Plan represents the priorities of the community and will help to move King Township towards a more sustainable future. Key staff members for each pillar (e.g. Treasurer, Planning, Economic Development, Parks and Recreation) will also provide occasional technical assistance and information to the Sustainability Committee. A King Township staff Sustainability Coordinator will be available to assist the Sustainability Committee.

King Township Council

Members of Council will continue to provide leadership and support for the Sustainability Plan. Their role in implementation will be to review and/or approve any recommendations from the Sustainability Committee that require funding or other forms of support. Individual Council Members will also be encouraged to participate as ex-officio members in Sustainability Committee meetings and provide support.

CAO

The Township of King's Chief Administrative Officer will continue to play a key role in corporate leadership for the Plan.

Sustainability Coordinator

The Sustainability Coordinator will be the main point of contact for the Plan and ultimately contribute to the coordination of the Plan. Responsibilities of the Coordinator will be to attend, facilitate and coordinate Sustainability Committee meetings, act as a liaison between the Sustainability Committee, Council, Township staff, the public and community groups, as well as coordinate education and outreach efforts related to the Plan.

Community Partners

Community partners will be asked to work closely with the Sustainability Committee, the Township of King administration and staff. Community partners include existing local NGOs, environmental groups, sports and recreation organizations, arts and heritage organizations, government agencies, developers, and community organizations.

These groups are already doing amazing work in the community with respect to sustainability. The support and contribution of these groups is essential in realizing the goals of the Plan. We encourage these groups to work with the Committee to partner, undertake actions and help implement the Plan.

Monitoring and Evaluating Our Progress

Indicators are used to measure our progress towards sustainability and to provide a reference point on how King Township is doing in meeting our vision. The first set of nineteen over-arching indicators will provide an overall look at the progress of sustainability in King Township. These system-wide indicators represent various aspects of sustainability and have been selected for their relevance to King Township, as well as the availability of baseline information.

System Wide Indicators

- 1) **Land-use Planning:** Number of developments implementing green building standards
- 2) **Natural Assets and Stewardship:** Percent forest cover
- 3) **Energy, Air Quality & Climate Change:** Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (CO²)
- 4) **Water:** Number of surface and groundwater sources that fail to meet provincial water quality standards
- 5) **Waste:** Percent of solid waste diverted
- 6) **Transportation:** Average number of scheduled bus and train departures (could use transit service kilometres per capita or mode of transportation to work)
- 7) **Agriculture and Equine:** Total economic value of local agricultural products and services (\$)
- 8) **Village Vitality:** Number of new and existing businesses
- 9) **New Economy:** Employment levels (# jobs)
- 10) **Tourism, Marketing and Communication:** Annual tourism revenues (\$)
- 11) **Sense of Community:** Volunteerism (measurement TBD)
- 12) **The Arts:** Number of King Township residents participating in arts and culture events
- 13) **Heritage:** Number of properties used for adaptive re-use
- 14) **Collaboration and Partnership:** Number of individuals/businesses involved in Sustainability Plan projects
- 15) **Health, Safety and Wellness:** Average participation in recreation programs
- 16) **Connection to the Land:** Number of trail connections
- 17) **Managing Growth:** Ratio of residential/nonresidential taxable assessments
- 18) **Financial Sustainability:** Debt to Reserve ratio
- 19) **Annual Budget & Business Plan:** Fiscally responsible budget

Progress Indicator Options List

The second set of progress indicators is presented as a menu of options for each theme. These potential indicators draw from best practices in other municipalities and elements that are already being measured in the Township. The intent is to provide a number of choices under each goal in order that the Sustainability Committee can select those they feel are most appropriate. Potential progress indicators can be found in Appendix B. Other progress indicators may also be established and added to this list as needed.

It should be noted that our progress towards sustainability must be measured and considered within the context of regional and provincial legislation, as this can affect our ability to achieve the goals and strategies set-out in this Plan. Such legislation should be monitored in order to help ensure that the implementation and its future updates of this Plan reflect and integrate with regional and provincial planning.

Accountability & Reporting

The Sustainability Committee will present an annual Progress Report to Council and the community with information about the status of the Plan's implementation using the nineteen system-wide indicators and the potential progress indicators for each priority direction. The annual report will identify:

- (1) progress annually;
- (2) review of action plans; and,
- (3) priorities for the upcoming year.

Third party auditors should be considered to assist the municipality in assessing the progress of the Sustainability Plan. These members would be neutral, third party auditors who evaluate the progress and report to Council directly. The Sustainability Committee will also be required to report progress through submission of minutes to Committee of the Whole.

Financial Considerations

The creation of the Sustainability Plan presents unique opportunities for the Township of King, agencies, non-governmental organizations, community groups and private businesses to work together to implement activities under the Plan's umbrella. These opportunities allow for new financial solutions to be developed to ensure action takes place.

Once the Plan is finalized and approved by Council, the implementation phase of the work can truly begin to take shape. The Sustainability Committee will be formed and provide overall guidance and direction to the actions in the Plan, which includes helping to form partnerships, and identifying financial strategies and funding sources.

In parallel, the Township will continue to move the sustainability agenda forward in its own operations through examining ways to operate more effectively and efficiently, as well as investing in strategic areas through the Municipal budgeting process.

Potential Annual Expenditures

The following identifies the basic potential expenditures associated with the Plan for the Township:

- Sustainability Coordinator salary;
- Sustainability Committee budget;
- Customer service;
- Progress reporting;
- Annual community celebration event;
- Communications and rebranding; and
- Implementation of selected projects (in part or in whole) as proposed by the Sustainability Committee and approved by Council (for those requiring Township resources).

Funding Opportunities

There are a number of avenues for funding actions under the Plan. Most significantly, the development of the Plan has allowed the Township of King to continue to access its portion of the federal gas tax funding (the average annual allocation for King Township is approximate \$597,000). This money is used to finance infrastructure improvement projects and specifically focuses on environmentally sustainable investments that help achieve cleaner water, cleaner air, or reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

The creation of the Sustainability Plan opens the doors for further Federation of Canadian Municipality Green Municipal Fund opportunities in areas such as greenhouse gas emission reduction, brown-field remediation, neighbourhood scale sustainability planning and projects relating to water, wastewater, roads, energy and transportation.

Other opportunities for funding include social enterprises, as a creative solution for implementing and funding sustainability actions, and the development of public and private partnerships based on shared values and principles. There are numerous funding sources that can be tapped into for implementation of various actions (please see Appendix D for a comprehensive listing).

Financial Controls

There is no denying that to implement actions there is a need for financial resources. The expenditure of financial resources to implement sustainability actions must be addressed in a fiscally responsible manner under the direction of the Sustainability Committee and Council (when there is a need for Township resources). The Township has developed a systematic process to review proposed projects, plans and actions using a simple sustainability alignment tool that will help the Sustainability Committee understand how actions link together with the Plan (see Appendix E). The tool is intended to be used for new plans, proposals, projects, and actions put forward to the Sustainability Committee and/or Council by community groups and/or staff. The intent of the alignment tool is to provide the Sustainability Committee and/or Council with a sense of how the proposed initiative helps to further the vision, goals, strategies and actions identified in the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, and therefore implement the Plan in a controlled and fiscally responsible manner.

Community Collaboration & Outreach

Community collaboration, engagement and outreach are crucial to the successful implementation of the Plan. The Plan is structured so that the municipal government is not expected to implement all of the priority actions alone but rather work in partnership with other organizations in the community. This approach also ensures that the Plan remains relevant and fresh, and can be updated with public input as needed.

To ensure transparency, good governance, community participation and buy-in from all stakeholders, a communication mandate/approach should be developed. This will guarantee ongoing, consistent, effective communication to elected officials and King Township staff.

An ongoing list of interested stakeholders and community members should be housed at the Township offices. The Sustainability Coordinator should identify the people and organizations that may be able to significantly influence the implementation and its success, as well as those directly affected by the implementation. Communication tools such as an e-newsletter, newspaper articles, project announcements, education and outreach should be undertaken throughout.

Celebrating Success

Achievements, hard work and success should be celebrated on an annual basis. The Township's Sustainability Coordinator should be responsible for organizing a public event to provide an opportunity to celebrate moving towards achieving King Township's vision for sustainability as well as update aspects of the Plan on an ongoing basis.

Moving forward, the community will be continually involved and encouraged to support the Plan in various ways, including:

- Attending the Annual Community Forum for Sustainability to share success stories;
- Registering on the Township's email listing to receive notifications of community events and meetings;
- Applying to be on the Sustainability Committee
- Taking part in workshops, programs, and events;
- Continuing to provide input; and
- Promoting sustainability and the sustainability initiatives through individual networks, businesses and conversations.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND LIST OF ACRONYMS

Active Transportation

Any form of human-powered transportation such as: walking/jogging/running; cycling; in-line skating; skateboarding; and snowshoeing/skiing.

Asset

A useful or valuable feature, quality, resource, person, place or thing.

Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) is a non-profit organization representing almost all of Ontario's 444 municipal governments and provides a variety of services and products to members and non-members.

Benchmark

A standard or point of reference against which things may be compared or assessed.

Biodiversity

The variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome or the entire earth. Biodiversity is often used as a measure of the health of biological systems.

Brownfield

Undeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. Brownfields are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict or vacant.

By-law

The written rules for conduct of a corporation, association, partnership or any organization. They should not be confused with the Articles of Corporation which only state the basic outline of the company, including stock structure. By-laws generally provide for meetings, elections of a board of directors and officers, filling vacancies, notices, types and duties of officers, committees, assessments and other routine conduct. By-laws are, in effect, a contract among members, and must be formally adopted and/or amended.

Carbon Footprint

The total amount of greenhouse gases emitted directly and indirectly to support human activities, usually expressed in equivalent tons of either carbon or carbon dioxide.

Climate Change

Changes in global climate patterns (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) that last for extended periods of time as a result of either natural processes or human influences. In some cases 'climate change' has been used synonymously with the term 'global warming'.

Community Economic Development

Community Economic Development (CED) is action taken locally by a community to provide economic opportunities and improve social conditions in a sustainable way. CED initiatives often aim to improve the lot of those who are disadvantaged. CED is a community-centred process that blends social and economic development to foster the economic, social, ecological and cultural well-being of communities.

Community Engagement

How stakeholders and the public in communities are engaged in determining their needs and/or ways of addressing these. Engagement goes beyond simple consultation and feedback, and involves people working collaboratively, through inspired action and learning, to create and realize bold visions for their common future.

Complete Community

Complete communities meet people's needs for daily living throughout an entire lifetime by providing convenient access to an appropriate mix of jobs, local services, a full range of housing, and community infrastructure including affordable housing, schools, recreation and open space for their residents. Convenient access to public transportation and options for safe, non-motorized travel is also a component of a complete community.

Culture

A community's values and aspirations, traditions and shared memories, the ways they develop, receive and transmit these, and the ways of life these processes produce. Cultures are maintained through communities. Artistic expression and creativity are ways that cultural identities are developed.

Cultural Heritage

The legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations. Cultural heritage includes tangible culture (such as buildings, monuments, landscapes, books, works of art and artifacts), intangible culture (such as folklore, traditions, language and knowledge), and natural heritage (including culturally-significant landscapes and biodiversity).

Current Conditions

Current conditions describe the current situation within the community relative to sustainability. It is about mapping out the current conditions, from a community perspective.

Ecosystem

The system of interactions between living organisms and their environment.

Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities, consisting of in excess of 1,900 members, represents municipal interests on federal policies and programs. The Federation's membership is represented by a diverse range of community types and ranges from the country's largest cities to its small, rural communities.

Gap analysis

The identification of where there are gaps between where an organization or municipality is today and where it wants to be in a successful, sustainable future. The tension established by the identification of these gaps is fundamental to the sustainability planning and finding new ways forward.

Goal

Statement of general direction leading towards a desired end state or vision.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Greenhouse gases include naturally occurring gases as well as new emissions created by industrial and individual activities. Naturally occurring GHG include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane,

nitrous oxide, and ozone. Others result exclusively from human industrial processes. Human activities also add significantly to the level of naturally occurring greenhouse gases:

- *Carbon dioxide* is released into the atmosphere by the burning of solid waste, wood and wood products, and fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, and coal).
- *Nitrous oxide* emissions occur during various agricultural and industrial processes, and when solid waste or fossil fuels are burned.
- *Methane* is emitted when organic waste decomposes, whether in landfills or in connection with livestock farming. Methane emissions also occur during the production and transport of fossil fuels.

Indicator

A component of the community, such as a flow, an action, an activity or built space, that is measured over time and can help show changes in a specific condition. Indicators provide a measurement tool to gauge performance and can be used to educate and affect change.

Integrated

In this context, “integrated” refers to the practice of bringing diverse, normally separate, concerns and planning processes together (e.g., transportation, land use, environment, housing, waste, water, energy, community health, recreation, culture, municipal finance, and others). Although community planning is, in principle, supposed to link these planning processes, in practice, this is not often done - the “silo” approach is the de facto practice. A Sustainability Plan aims to establish a framework through which these various planning efforts can be dovetailed and integrated and therefore involves a multi-disciplinary approach that brings together a wide range of expertise. Moreover, a Sustainability Plan recognizes that the municipality does not have sole control over urban processes and attempts to integrate other actors (such as industry, NGOs, other levels of government) into the planning process.

Knowledge-Based Economy

An expression that describes trends in advanced economies towards greater dependence on knowledge, information and high skill levels, and the increasing need for ready access to all of these by the business and public sectors.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design™ (LEED™)

The LEED Green Building Rating System™ encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria. LEED™ is a third-party certification program and an internationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. It promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: (1) sustainable site development, (2) water efficiency, (3) energy efficiency, (4) materials selection, and (5) indoor environmental quality.

Natural Capital

An organization’s (i.e., a municipality, regional body, company, etc.) environmental assets and natural resources existing in the physical environment, either owned (such as mineral, forest, or energy resources) or simply used in business operations (such as clean water and atmosphere). Traditional economic measures and indicators often fail to take into account the development use of natural capital, although preservation of its quantity and quality, and therefore its sustainable use, is essential to a business’ long-term survival and growth.

Natural Heritage

Natural features consisting of physical and biological formations or groups of such formations, which are of outstanding universal value from an aesthetic or scientific point of view. Geological and physiographical formations and precisely delineated areas which constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation. Natural sites or precisely delineated natural areas of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty.

Partners for Climate Protection Program

The Partners for Climate Protection (PCP) program is a network of Canadian municipal governments that have committed to reducing greenhouse gases and acting on climate change. PCP is the Canadian component of ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) network, which involves more than 900 communities worldwide. PCP is a partnership between the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. PCP receives financial support from FCM's Green Municipal Fund™.

Peak Oil

Peak oil refers to the point at which the supply of that oil is at its limit. After this point, oil supply will begin to decline.

Policy

Principles or rules used by organizations, governments and/or businesses to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes.

Renewable Energy

Natural resources that provide energy such as sunlight, wind, tides and geothermal heat, which are naturally replenished.

Resilient

The capability to anticipate risk, limit impact, and bounce back rapidly through survival, adaptability, evolution, and growth in the face of turbulent change.

Right to Light

A term that describes an individual home owner's entitlement to have sunlight come into their home. In Canada, residents do not have the legal "right to light" unless a bylaw is created at the municipal level.

Smart growth

A development approach that aims to improve environmental, economic and social sustainability by managing urban sprawl.

Stakeholder

An individual or group potentially affected by the activities of an organization/ government body.

Stormwater

The discharge of water by runoff from land and impervious areas, such as paved streets, parking lots and buildings, during rainfall and snow events.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater management is anything associated with the planning, maintenance, and regulation of facilities which collect, store, or convey stormwater.

Sustainable development

A vision of development that encompasses populations, animal and plant species, ecosystems, natural resources – water, air, energy – and that integrates concerns such as the fight against poverty, gender equality, human rights, education for all, health, human security, intercultural dialogue, etc.

Swamp

A low area of land partially or intermittently saturated with water.

SWOT (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat)

A way of assessing the positive and negative forces affecting an organization. A SWOT analysis identifies the positives and negatives inside an organization (S-W) and outside of it, in the external environment (O-T).

Target

A target is a desirable value that you want an indicator to reach within a particular period of time. For example, if you are measuring the percent of forest-related jobs in your community and you want to increase these over time, you may set up a target of 10% increase over the next 10 years.

Vision

A shared description or desired direction for the future.

Waste Diversion Rate

The percentage of total waste that a jurisdiction diverts from disposal at landfills and transformation facilities through reduction, reuse, recycling programs and composting programs.

Zoning By-law

Provisions that regulates the use, size, height, density and location of buildings on properties within a municipality. The basic purpose of a zoning bylaw is to regulate what you can build and how big the building can be on a property. A typical zoning bylaw maps out the zones which show how the property can be used. That is, the property can be used for various land uses that range from residential to commercial to industrial and other land uses.

Acronyms

ASK – Arts Society King
BILD – Building Industry and Land Development Association
CaGBC – Canada Green Building Council
CFFO – Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
DWQMS - Drinking Water Quality Management System
EFP – Environmental Farm Plan
FCM – Federation of Canadian Municipalities
GTA – Greater Toronto Area
GTA AAC – Greater Toronto Area Agricultural Action Committee
GHG – Greenhouse Gas
HMGA – Holland Marsh Growers Association
ICSP – Integrated Community Sustainability Plan
KEAC – King Environmental Advisory Committee
LEED™ – Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design
LSCRA – Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
LDC – Local Distribution Companies

MNR – Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
MTO – Ontario Ministry of Transportation
NCC – Nature Conservancy of Canada
NFU – National Farmers Union
NGO – Non-governmental Organization
OFA – Ontario Federation of Agriculture
ORMLT – Oak Ridge Moraine Land Trust
OPA – Ontario Power Authority
OMAFRA – Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
ORMCP – Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
ORTA – Oak Ridges Trail Association
PPS – Provincial Policy Statement
PRC – Parks Recreation and Culture Department
SNAP – Sustainable Neighbourhood Retrofit Action Plan
STORM – Save the Oak Ridges Moraine
RFP – Request for Proposal
TOD – Transit Oriented Development
TRCA – Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
YRT – York Region Transit