

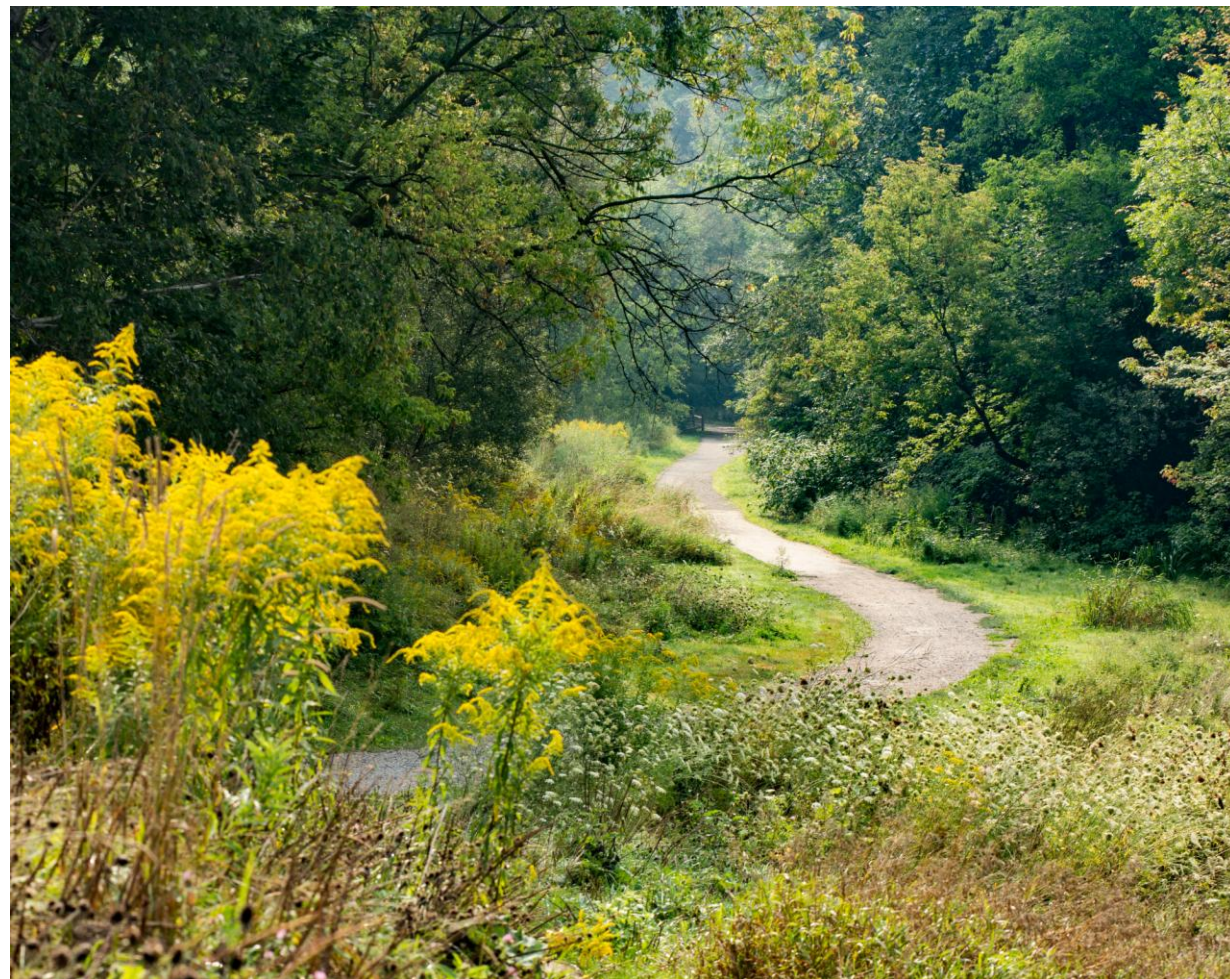
# Toronto Biodiversity Strategy

Infrastructure and Environment Committee, September 9, 2019

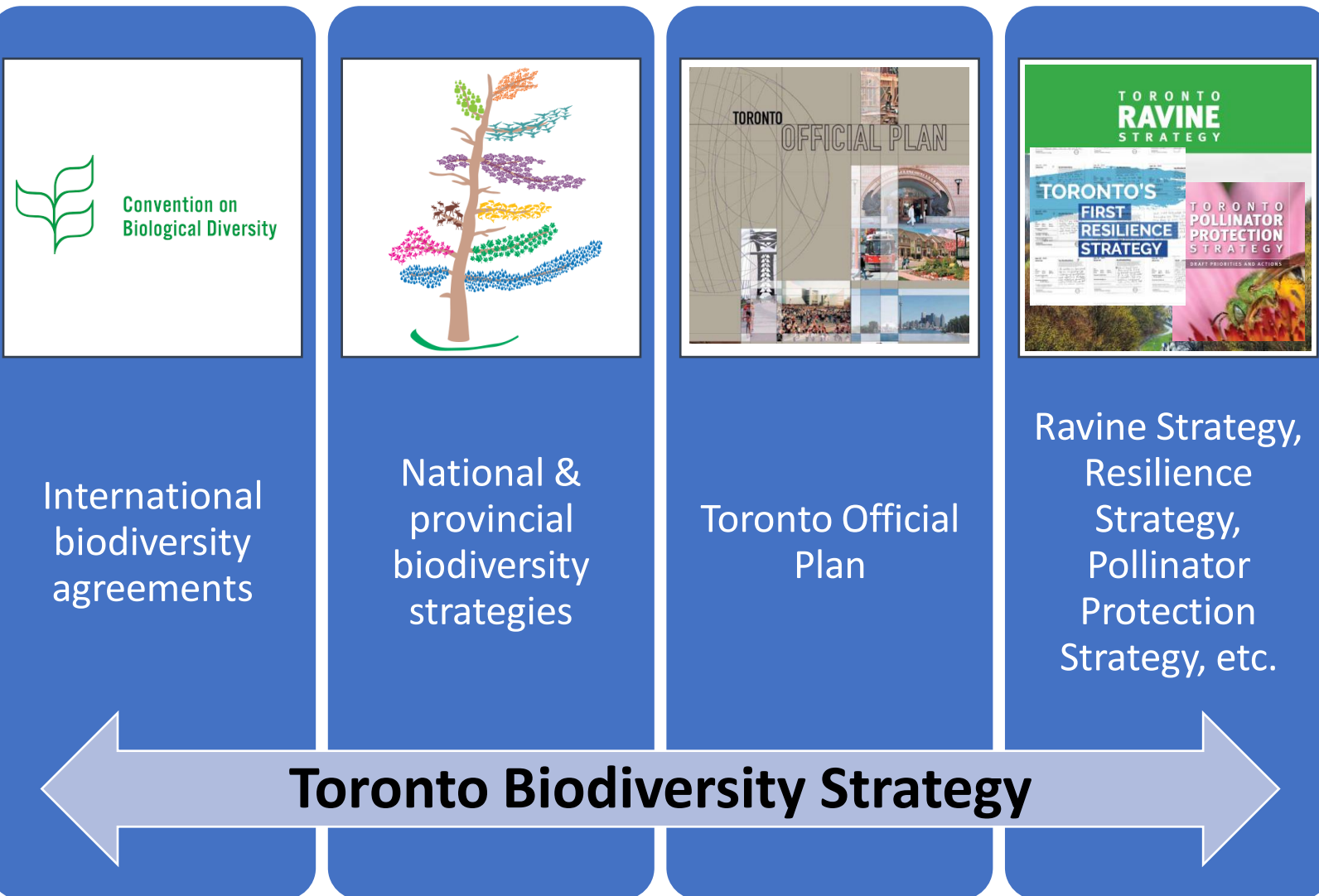


# Toronto Biodiversity Strategy

Toronto, named after Tkaronto, the Mohawk word meaning '*where there are trees in the water*', describes a deep rooted and meaningful relationship in natural stewardship between the people and the place.



# Biodiversity Strategy Alignment





# Biodiversity: richness of life

- **8,595 ha** of terrestrial natural habitat (13.5% of the City)
- **320 km** of streams in six watersheds
- **1,600** parks; **1.2** million trees; **700** green roofs
- **\$822 million/year** ecosystem services
- **38** mammals; **280** trees, shrubs and vines; **404** birds; **110** butterflies; **92** fish



# How we got here

Biodiversity  
Booklet  
Series  
(2011)

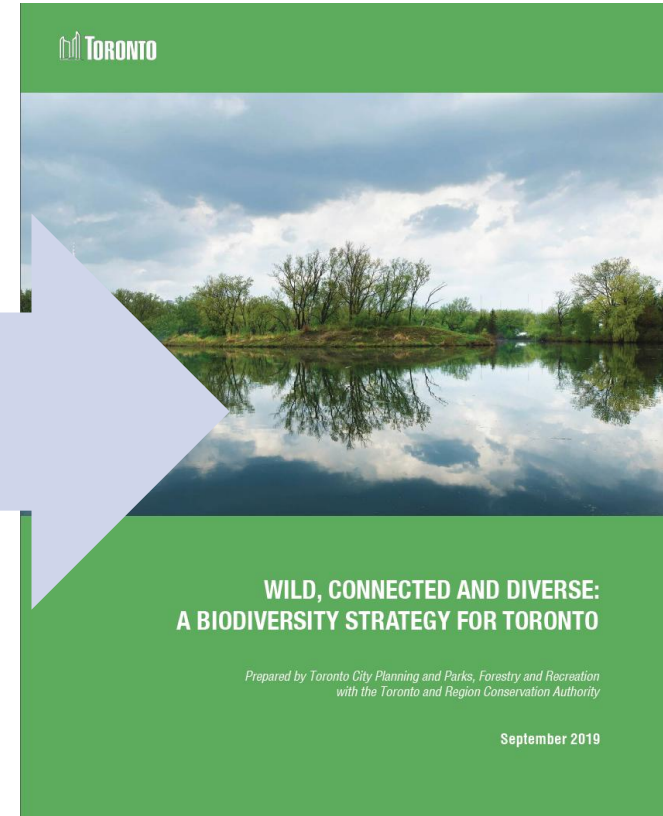
Chief  
Planner  
Roundtable  
on  
Biodiversity  
(2017)

Workshop/  
Public  
meetings  
(2018/  
2019)

Councillor  
Motion  
(Sept 2015)

Draft  
Biodiversity  
Strategy  
(July 2018)

Expert  
feedback  
(2018/2019)





# Feedback received

- Strong support
- Consider ecological integrity
- Importance of public education
- More citizen stewardship and partnership opportunities
- Enforce and strengthen existing protections
- Promote and prioritize native species and management of invasive species
- Authentic, meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities
- Embed biodiversity considerations across City policies and programs.



# Purpose of the Biodiversity Strategy

- Protect health of existing natural areas
- Restore habitat
- Increase awareness and engagement
- Align with existing and proposed work





# Threats to Toronto's Biodiversity

- Habitat loss
- Invasive species
- Climate change
- Human activities





# What Toronto is Doing

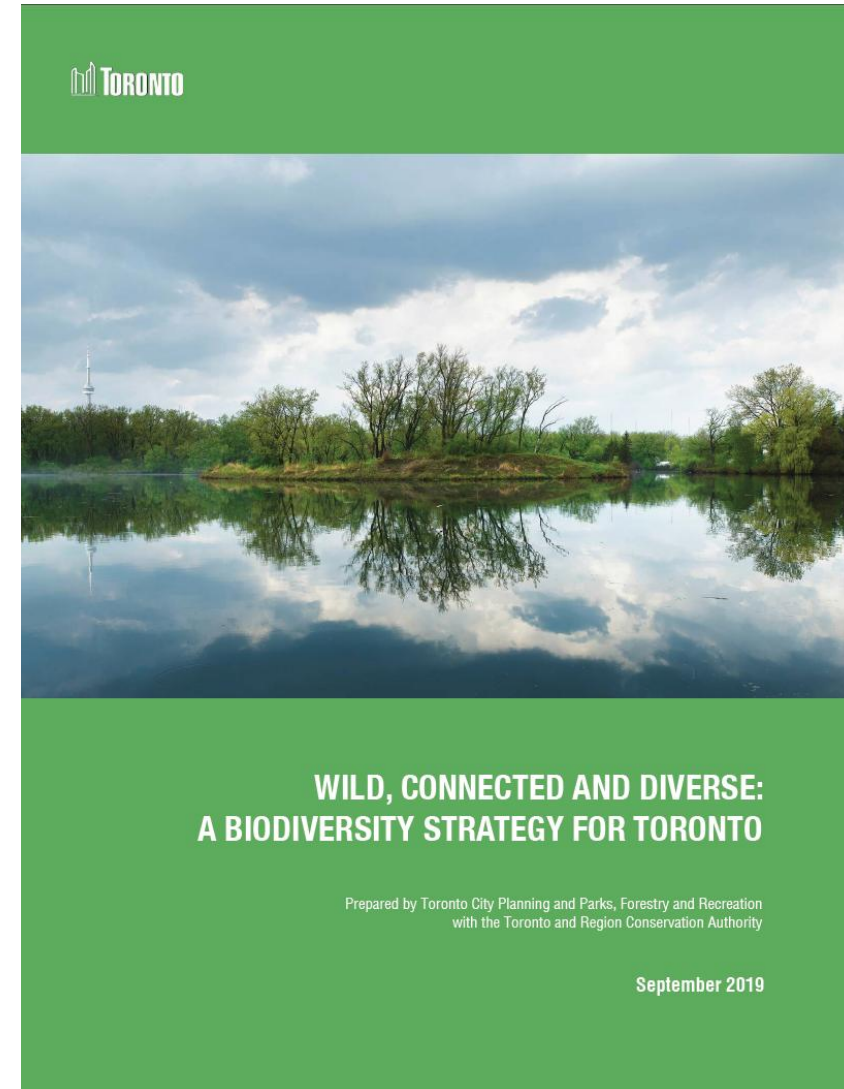
- Policies, Regulations, Strategies and Plans
- Restoration and managing invasives
- Designing the built environment with nature in mind



# Toronto's *first* Biodiversity Strategy

## Principles include:

- Biodiversity is fundamental to the health of all beings
- Biodiversity is key to resilience
- Use ecological integrity to assess ecosystem health and guide management
- Measure and report on results





# Actions

## 23 actions include:

- Develop an ecological integrity monitoring framework
- Review policies and bylaws for opportunities to support biodiversity
- Identify priority sites for restoration
- Advance plans and programs for management of terrestrial invasive species
- Expand the Urban Biodiversity Booklet Series
- Develop a guide on 'Backyard Biodiversity'



# Implementing Actions

- Most of the 23 actions can be accommodated within existing work plans
- Coordinated across city-divisions and between agency partners
- Many actions tie directly with the Ravine Strategy implementation





# Report Recommendations

1. Adopt the Toronto Biodiversity Strategy
2. To develop an ecological integrity monitoring and reporting framework for Toronto's natural areas and ravines through the Ecosystem Services Working Group.
3.
  - a. Continue to work on implementation of the City and TRCA invasive species management programs and strategies; and
  - b. Undertake a review of gaps and opportunities for improvement in implementation of invasive species management programs through the Ecosystem Services Working Group
4. Adopt the Resolution for the City of Toronto to join the Biophilic Cities Network