



# Parks & Environment Committee

Richard Butts

Deputy City Manager, Cluster B

January 28, 2011





# Presentation Outline

- Committee Overview
- Committee Work Plan
- Key Staff
- Questions and Answers



# Committee Overview

- Mandate and scope of the Committee
  - The Parks and Environment Committee's primary focus is the natural environment, with a mandate to monitor, and make recommendations on the sustainable use of Toronto's natural environment.



# Committee Overview

- Key Divisions that routinely report to P&E:
  - Toronto Environment Office
  - Parks, Forestry and Recreation



# Key Staff

- Staff supporting the Committee's work:

Lawson Oates, Director  
Toronto Environment Office

Brenda Patterson, General Manager  
Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Kelly McCarthy, Committee Administrator  
City Clerks



# Toronto Environment Office

Lawson Oates  
Director





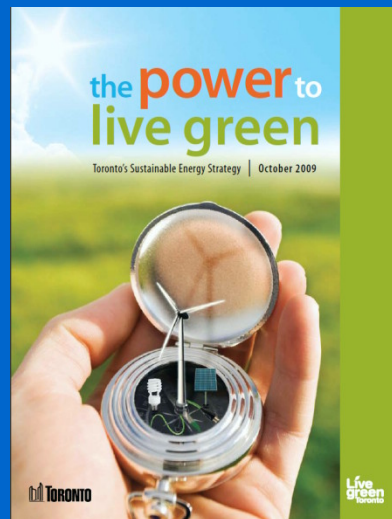
# TEO Mission Statement

The Toronto Environment Office serves the community and the corporation in addressing environmental issues of concern by:

- Providing research and policy expertise;
- Establishing effective policy and program partnerships between external and internal stakeholders; and
- Delivering the tools needed to support residents and businesses in making changes to contribute to greener lifestyles and business practices.

# Key Initiatives TEO

## Facilitating Preparation & Implementation of City-Wide Environmental Strategies





# The Toronto Environment Office

[www.toronto.ca/teo](http://www.toronto.ca/teo)

[www.toronto.ca/livegreen](http://www.toronto.ca/livegreen)

Deputy City  
Manager 'B'

Richard Butts

Director, Toronto  
Environment Office

Lawson Oates x29744

Innovation & Partnerships

Manager – Nancy Ruscica  
x22984

Implementation & Support

Manager – Mark Bekkering  
x28556

Policy & Research

Manager – Ciara De Jong  
x75784



# Key Initiatives TEO



- Live Green Toronto Campaign
  - Community Investment Fund
  - Community Animators
  - Live Green Toronto Festival
  - Membership Card
  - Community Outreach at 200 Events
  - Live Green TO Volunteers
  - Live Green TO Website
  - Corporate Sponsorship







# Key Initiatives TEO

## Important Dates for Your Calendar in 2011:

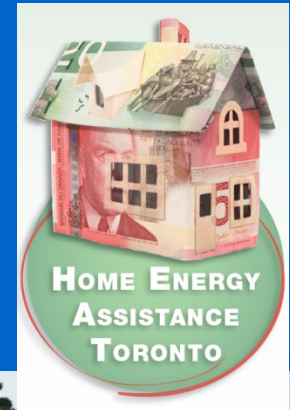
- Canada Blooms
  - March 15-20
- Green Toronto Awards
  - April 15
- Live Green Toronto Festival
  - July 16
- Live Green Toronto Volunteers Appreciation Event
  - December 2011



# Key Initiatives TEO

Ongoing Program Implementation of:

- Home Energy Assistance Toronto;
- Home Energy Help;
- Eco-Roof Financial Incentive;
- Smart Commute; and
- Cut-it Out Toronto

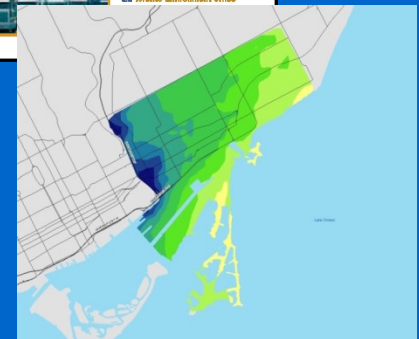
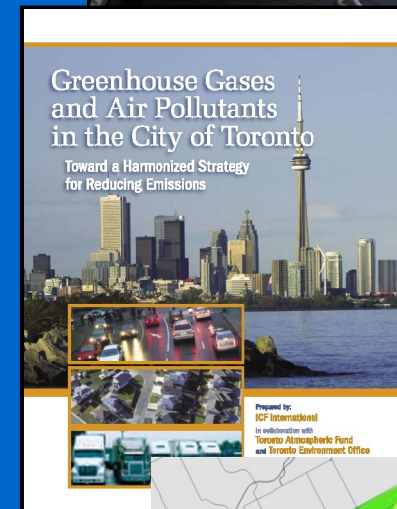
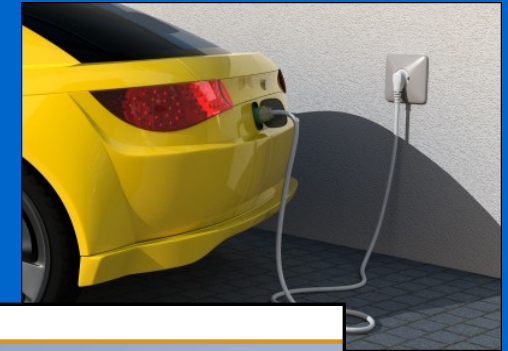




# Key Initiatives TEO

## Policy & Research Initiatives:

- Electric Vehicles;
- District Energy Systems;
- Emissions Inventory;
- Local Air Quality Studies;
- Supporting Urban Agriculture;
- Local Food Procurement Policy; &
- Carbon Credits & Emissions Trading





# Committee Work Plan

Staff reports from TEO coming forward in early 2011:

- Home Energy Efficiency Program Proposal
- Program Reviews of Live Green Toronto & Eco-Roof programs
- Local Air Quality Study of South Riverdale & Beach
- Implementation Status of City-Wide Environmental Strategies & Green Initiatives Reporting



# Committee Work Plan

Staff reports coming from TEO for the remainder of 2011:

- Environmental Risk Assessment Process & Tool
- Climate Drivers Study Outcomes
- Electric Vehicle Strategy
- Carbon Credit Policy Revision
- Urban Agriculture Issues & Actions
- District Energy Policy/Strategy





# Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Brenda Patterson  
General Manager





# Committee Overview

## Parks, Forestry and Recreation





# Committee Overview

- Parks Branch – Service Profile:
  - Parks Planning & Development
  - Maintenance of Parks, Sports Fields, Trails, Golf Courses, Outdoor Ice Rinks
  - Plant Production, Horticultural Gardens, Greenhouses & Conservatories
  - Beach Maintenance
  - Toronto Island & Ferry Operations
  - Zoo & Farm Attractions
  - Urban Agricultural Activities





# Committee Overview

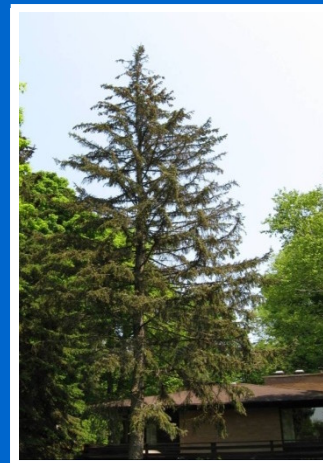
## Key Park Assets

- 1,512 named parks
- 7,527 hectares of city-managed parkland / greenspace
- 77 water play/splash pads
- 51 outdoor artificial ice rinks
- 2 ski and snowboard centres
- 5 public golf courses
- 5 ferry boats
- 835 sports fields
- 630 tennis courts
- 818 playgrounds
- 8 greenhouses
- 3,084 hectares of turf mowed
- 17 Children's Gardens
- 51 Community Gardens
- 1,674 Allotment Garden plots



# Committee Overview

- Urban Forestry Branch – Service Profile:
  - Tree Care Maintenance
  - Tree Protection
  - Tree Planting
  - Tree Policy & Planning Review
  - Special Projects – Asian Long Horn Beetle





# Committee Overview

## Urban Forestry Branch – Key Assets and Outputs:

- 3.4 million trees in 7,527 hectares of parks and ravines
- 6 million trees on private property
- 144 tree species in Division's database
- 45,000 tree inspections per year
- 60,000 trees pruned per year
- Over 14,000 caliper trees and over 100,000 small trees and shrubs planted annually



# Committee Overview

- Development of a Parks Plan
  - Key achievements:
    - In February 2010, Council approved the development of a City-wide Parks Plan based on 7 guiding principles.
    - Community and stakeholder consultations will be held in Spring 2011.
    - Development of Plan is currently underway, with a final report expected by year end, 2011.
  - Key challenges and opportunities:
    - Budget constraints in meeting competing demands of the city's diverse population.



# Committee Overview

- Development of an Urban Forestry Service Plan
  - Key achievements:
    - Urban Forestry Asset Management Plan, a multi-year service and financial plan, approved by Council in 2009.
    - Plan will see tree canopy doubled by 2050.
    - Plan will move Division's response from "reactive" to "proactive", improving customer response and satisfaction and reduce backlog.
  - Key challenges and opportunities
    - Budget constraints in implementing the plan.
    - Balancing service requests with scheduled area maintenance.





# Committee Overview

- Development of Emerald Ash Borer Plan

- Key achievements:

- City-wide, systematic survey completed to determine density and extent of EAB infestation.
- EAB Working Group formed to co-ordinate a proactive, systematic removal of dead and dying ash trees.
- In 2010, over 279 ash trees were injected with TreeAzin to delay their mortality.

- Key challenges and opportunities

- Currently over 800 trees have been identified as dead or dying.
- Financial and operational burden on Urban Forestry to remove large scale of ash trees.



# Committee Work Plan

- Staff reports coming forward
  - Early in 2011
    - Parks Plan progress report and consultation strategy in March 2011
    - Emerald Ash Borer Strategy in March 2011
  - Remainder of the Term
    - Parks Plan Final Report in Nov. / Dec. 2011
    - Ongoing implementation of Parks Plan



# Key Staff

- Staff supporting the Committee's work :
  - Richard Ubbens, Director, Parks
  - Jason Doyle, Director, Urban Forestry



# Questions and Answers

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