Toronto's Ravine Strategy

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Planning and Growth Management Committee | January 20, 2016

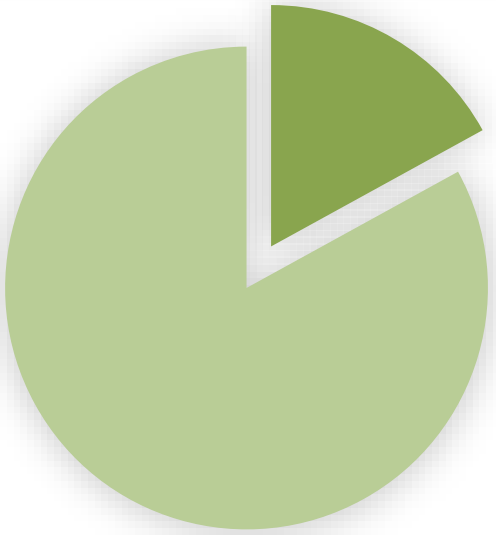
Photograph: Arvo Poolar (Forestry Category Winner, PFR Snap & Share 2014)

Toronto's Ravines

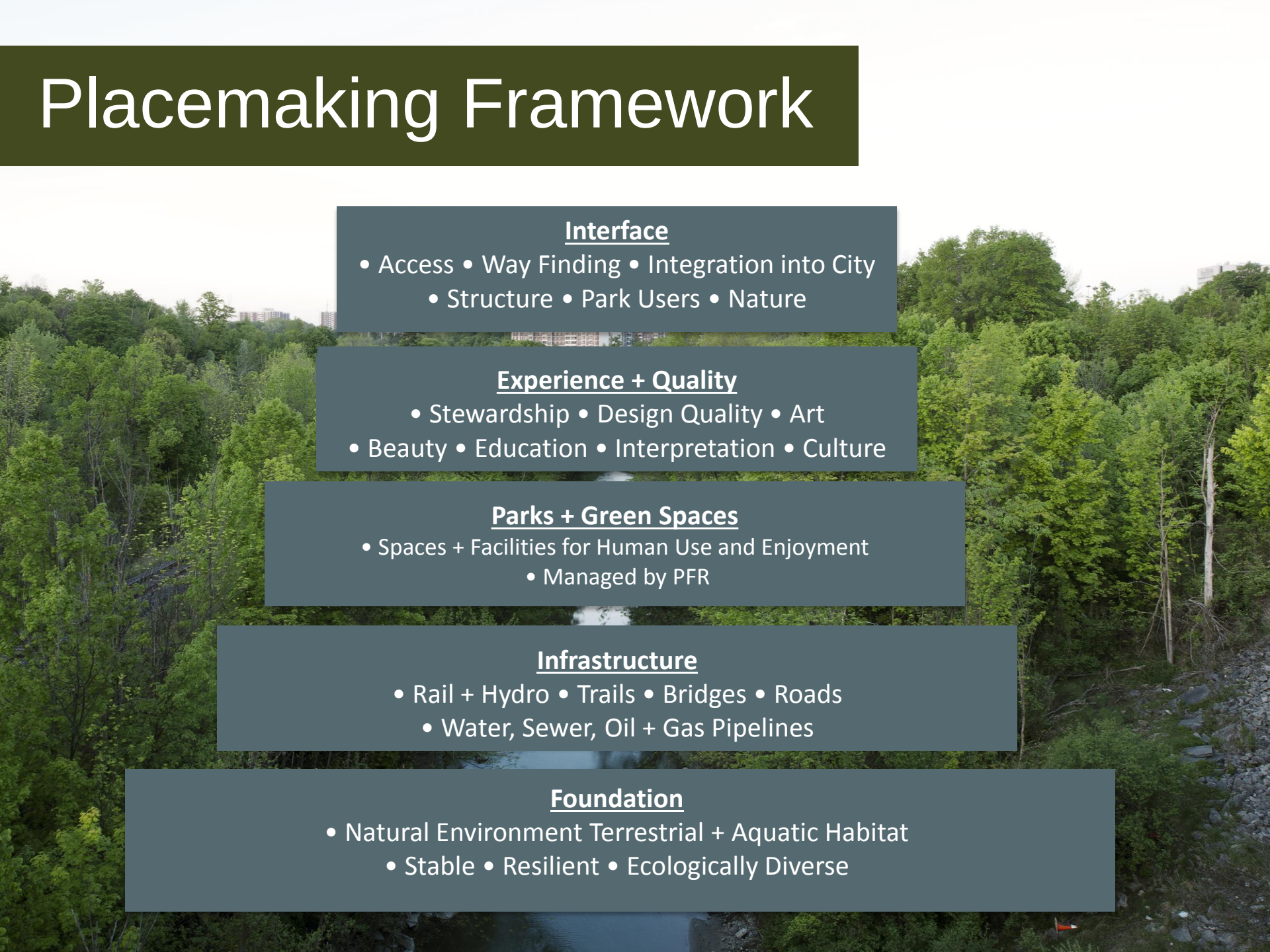
60% of ravines are public land
40% are private with 30,000 private addresses



17% of Toronto's total land area is under Ravine Bylaw



Placemaking Framework



Interface
• Access • Way Finding • Integration into City
• Structure • Park Users • Nature

Experience + Quality
• Stewardship • Design Quality • Art
• Beauty • Education • Interpretation • Culture

Parks + Green Spaces
• Spaces + Facilities for Human Use and Enjoyment
• Managed by PFR

Infrastructure
• Rail + Hydro • Trails • Bridges • Roads
• Water, Sewer, Oil + Gas Pipelines

Foundation
• Natural Environment Terrestrial + Aquatic Habitat
• Stable • Resilient • Ecologically Diverse

Legislation and Agreements

City of Toronto Act

- Provides legislative authority for Ravine & Natural Features Protection By-Law and site plan review.

Official Plan

- Toronto's Official Plan governs all city building activities; policies protect natural areas, Environmentally Significant Areas

Ravine & Natural Feature Protection By-Law

- Protects ravines and natural features that are vulnerable to degradation due to removal of trees, changes in grade or lack of management.

TRCA / City Memorandum of Agreement

- Provides Toronto with the authority to operate and maintain TRCA-owned lands as parkland under certain conditions.

Conservation Authorities Act

- Provides legislative authority to regulate the placing and dumping of fill, for the conservation of land, or interference of water courses.

Provincial Policy Statement (2014)

- Requires municipalities to protect natural heritage features and functions, promotes conservation of bio-diversity, stormwater management, protection of surface and ground water.

Ontario Endangered Species Act

- Protects species that are at-risk and their habitats.

Greenbelt Act

- Identifies where urbanization should not occur in order to provide permanent protection to the ecological features and functions in designated areas, including the Rouge Valley

Federal Fisheries Act

- Protects fish habitats.

Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act

- Protects migratory and breeding birds and their habitats.

The Ravine Strategy was initiated by the General Managers of, and is a collaborative initiative between:

- *Parks, Forestry and Recreation*
- *City Planning*
- *Toronto Water*
- *Economic Development and Culture*
- *Toronto and Region Conservation Authority*

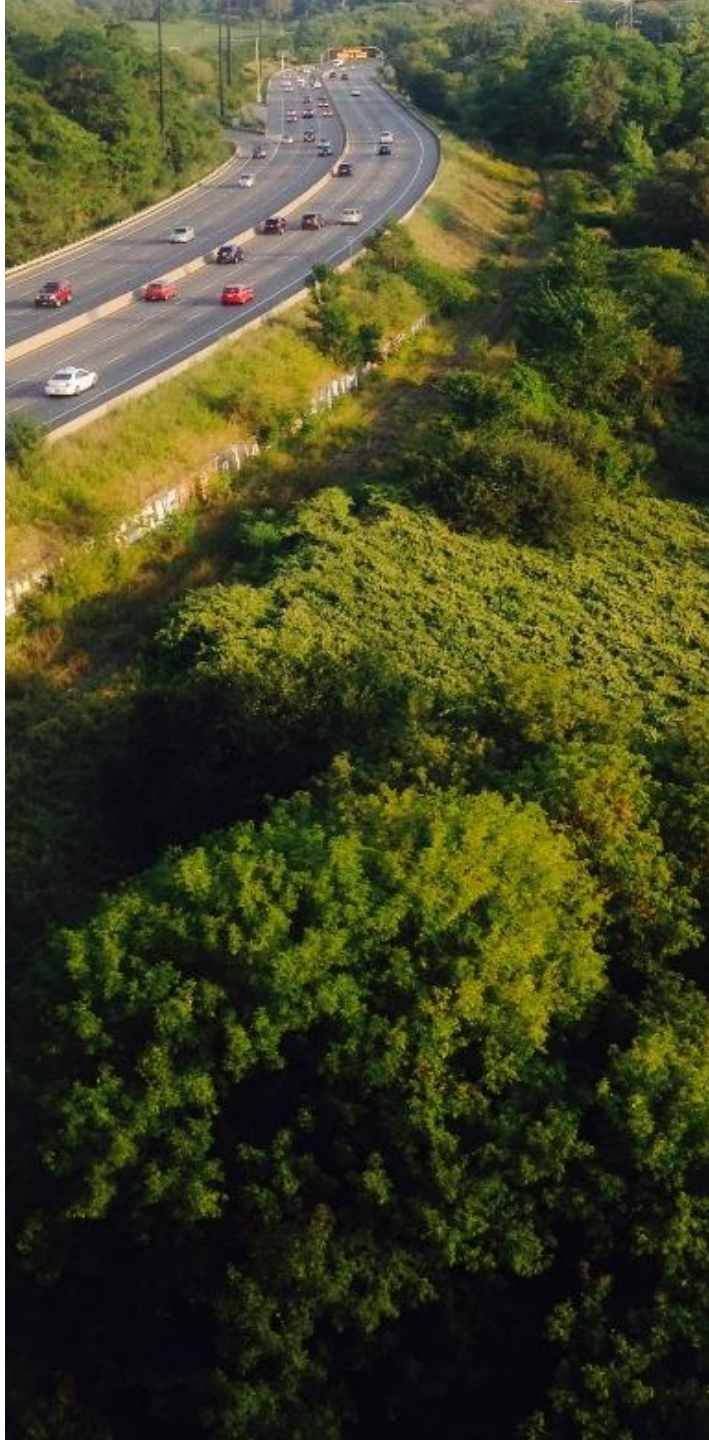
The strategy will:

- *Guide the future use, management, enhancement and protection of Toronto's ravines*
- *Include a common vision and set of principles to guide Toronto's policies, investments and stewardship for ravines*



Why a strategy now?

- Intensification & increased use pressures
- Growing interest in re-connecting with nature
- Diverse user groups with visions and plans
- Synergies between projects in the cultural, economic and ecological realms
- Interest in celebrating and promoting ravines as a City asset
- Recognition of the importance of green infrastructure



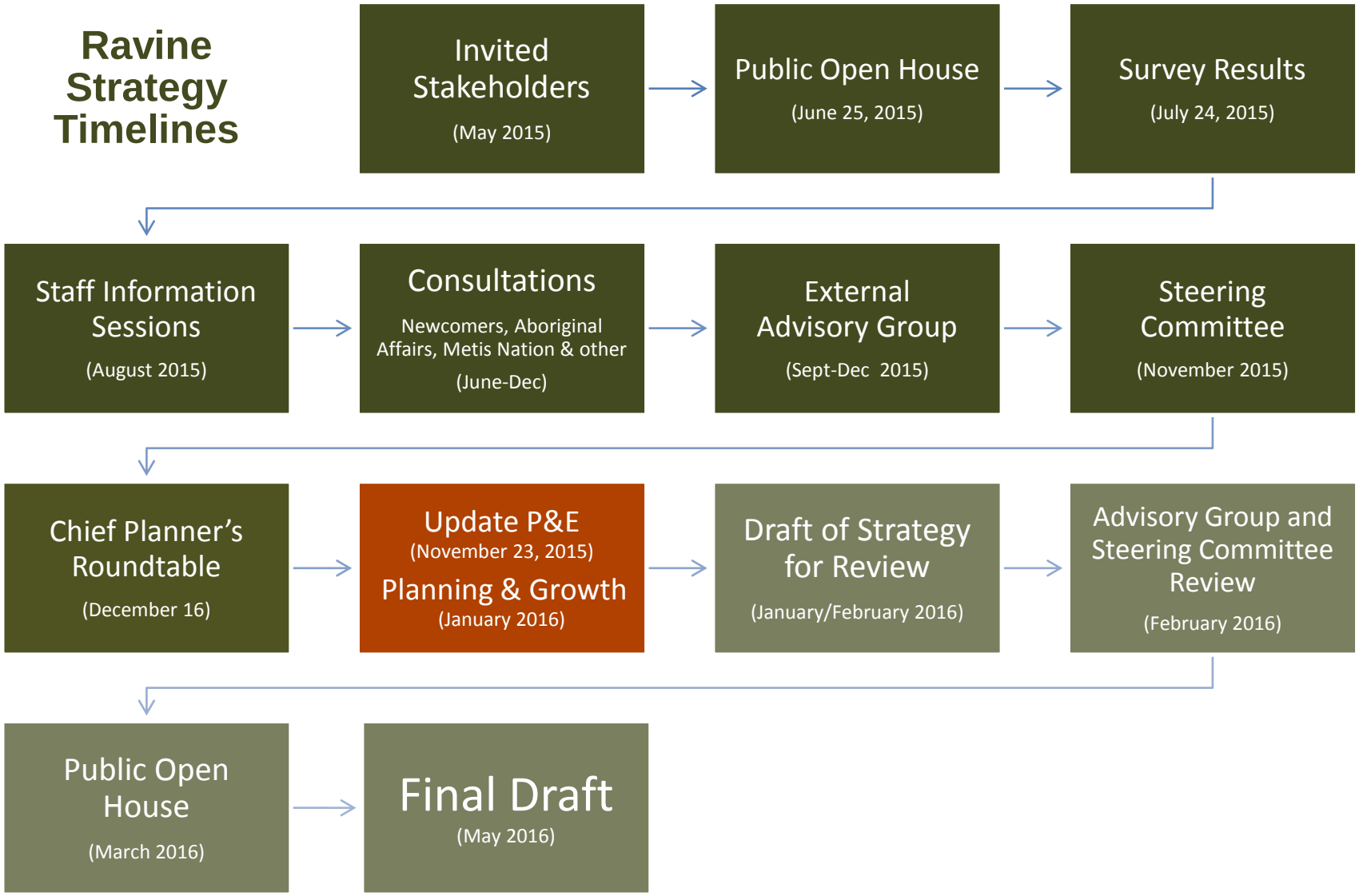
City Planning – planning, policy & standards development

Forestry	Parks	Toronto Water	TRCA	Transportation
• Ravine Protection – bylaw enforcement • Plan review • Encroachment • Natural Environment and Community Programs • Stewardship • Capital projects • Natural Environment Trails • Invasive species management	• Bylaw enforcement • Permitting • Plan review • Capital projects • Trails • Watercourse clean up • Garbage/litter crew	• Infrastructure development, renewal and maintenance • Stormwater management and erosion control • Spill response • Stream restoration • Roads/trails • Bylaw enforcement	• Erosion and flood control • Capital projects • Stewardship and restoration • Natural heritage and watershed studies • Permitting and enforcement • Plan review	• Bridges and trails • Capital projects • Maintenance • Bikeway Trails Plan implementation

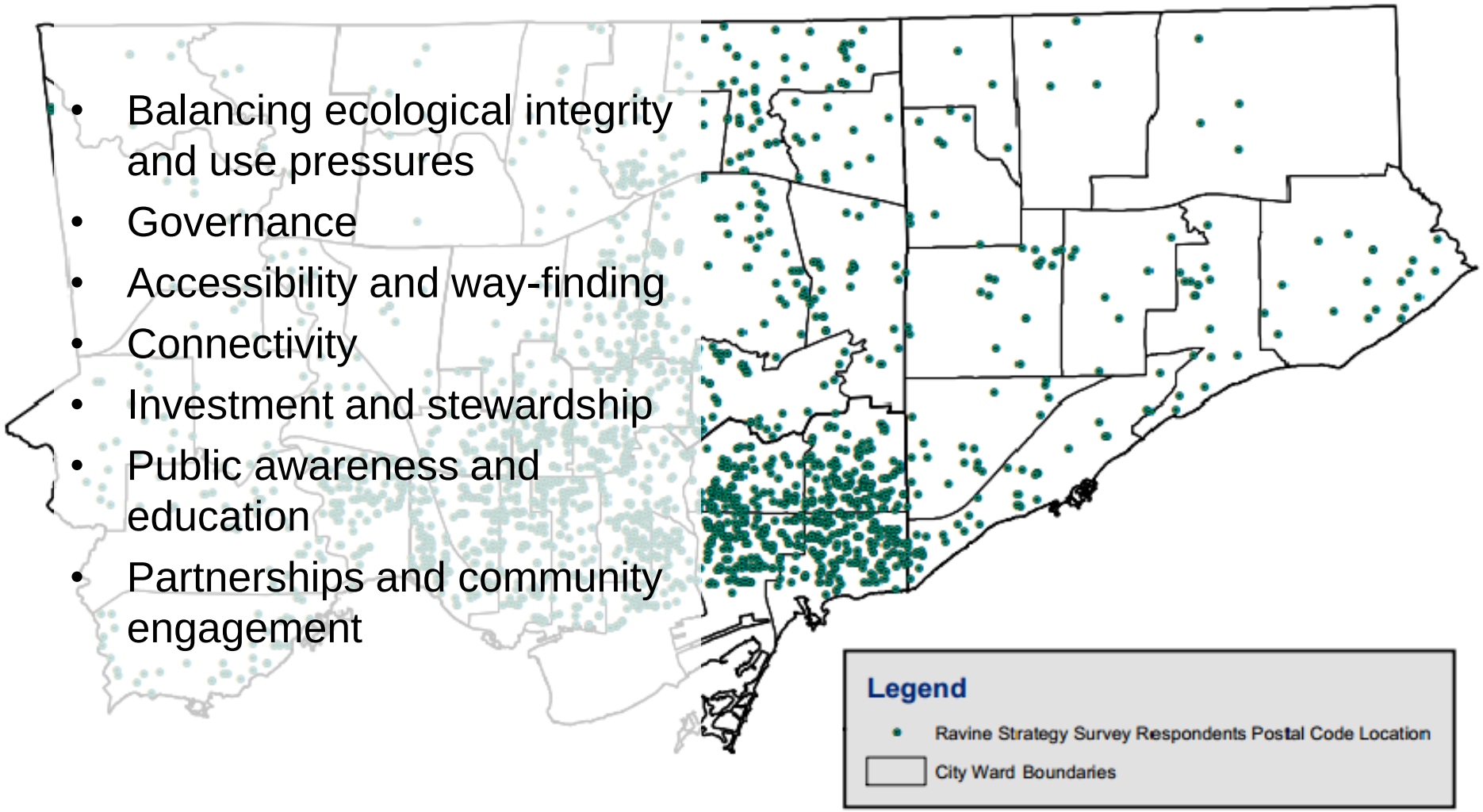
Access and trails, enforcement, capital projects, stakeholder engagement

Ravine Stakeholders




Ravine Strategy Timelines
Invited Stakeholders
(May 2015)
Public Open House
(June 25, 2015)
Survey Results
(July 24, 2015)
Staff Information Sessions
(August 2015)
Consultations
Newcomers, Aboriginal Affairs, Metis Nation & other
(June-Dec)
External Advisory Group
(Sept-Dec 2015)
Steering Committee
(November 2015)
Chief Planner's Roundtable
(December 16)
Update P&E
(November 23, 2015)
Planning & Growth
(January 2016)
Draft of Strategy for Review
(January/February 2016)
Advisory Group and Steering Committee Review
(February 2016)
Public Open House
(March 2016)
Final Draft
(May 2016)

- Balancing ecological integrity and use pressures
- Governance
- Accessibility and way-finding
- Connectivity
- Investment and stewardship
- Public awareness and education
- Partnerships and community engagement



Survey Themes

Challenges

- Many stakeholders or interest groups are place or issues-focused, limiting a broader vision for ravines
- Interests and visions of stakeholders often conflict
- Balancing stewardship and protection with access and use as a public space
- Ravines are a dynamic system subject to impacts of climate change and urban intensification on adjacent tablelands
- Co-ordination of projects amongst multiple landowners, high proportion of private land
- Cost and coordination of protecting and replacing infrastructure
- Equal distribution of assets and amenities



Accomplishments

- Environmentally Significant Areas (ESAs)
- Evergreen Brickworks & Weston Quarry Garden
- Wayfinding Strategy
- Signature infrastructure
- Natural Environment Trails Strategy
- Pan Am Path
- Public education initiatives & interpretive signage programs
- Community stewardship programs
- Lower Don Trails Access, Environment and Art Master Plan







CHIEF PLANNER roundtable



Toronto's Ravines: Intersection of Nature and City

"As the years go on and the population increases, there will be a need for these lands and more. In life where so much appears futile, this one thing will remain." Charles Sauriol