

Ravine Strategy Implementation Update

Environment, Climate and Forestry and Parks and Recreation
Presentation to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee

February 25, 2026



Toronto's Ravines

17%

of Toronto's total land area is protected under the Ravine and Natural Feature Protection By-law

1,500+

parks, plus recreation facilities and hundreds of kms of trails

30%

of Torontonians live within 500m of a ravine

87%

of Toronto's Environmentally Significant Areas are found in ravines

60%

is public land



Working Together in Ravines

Environment, Climate & Forestry	Parks & Recreation	Toronto & Region Conservation Authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage forests and natural areas on City parkland, including tree planting and invasive species management • Facilitate student internships and community-led engagement and restoration • Regulate impacts to ravine trees and features (MC Ch658) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan and deliver P&R capital projects in ravines, including Ravine Strategy projects • Maintain park assets in ravines, e.g. multi-use trails • Ravine litter picking • Coordinate City responsibilities on Ravine Campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major owner of City-managed parkland in ravines • Regulate development, interference with wetlands and alterations to shorelines and watercourses (Ontario Reg 166/06) • Deliver City-funded (and other) capital projects in ravines, e.g. multi-use trails, wetland enhancements, erosion mitigation • Ecological monitoring

Ravine Strategy, 2017 Implementation Report, 2020

- A common vision and framework to manage the multiple pressures while ensuring that the foundation of a healthy, resilient ravine system that connects people with nature
- 20 actions based on 5 guiding principles:



Protect



Invest



Connect



Partner

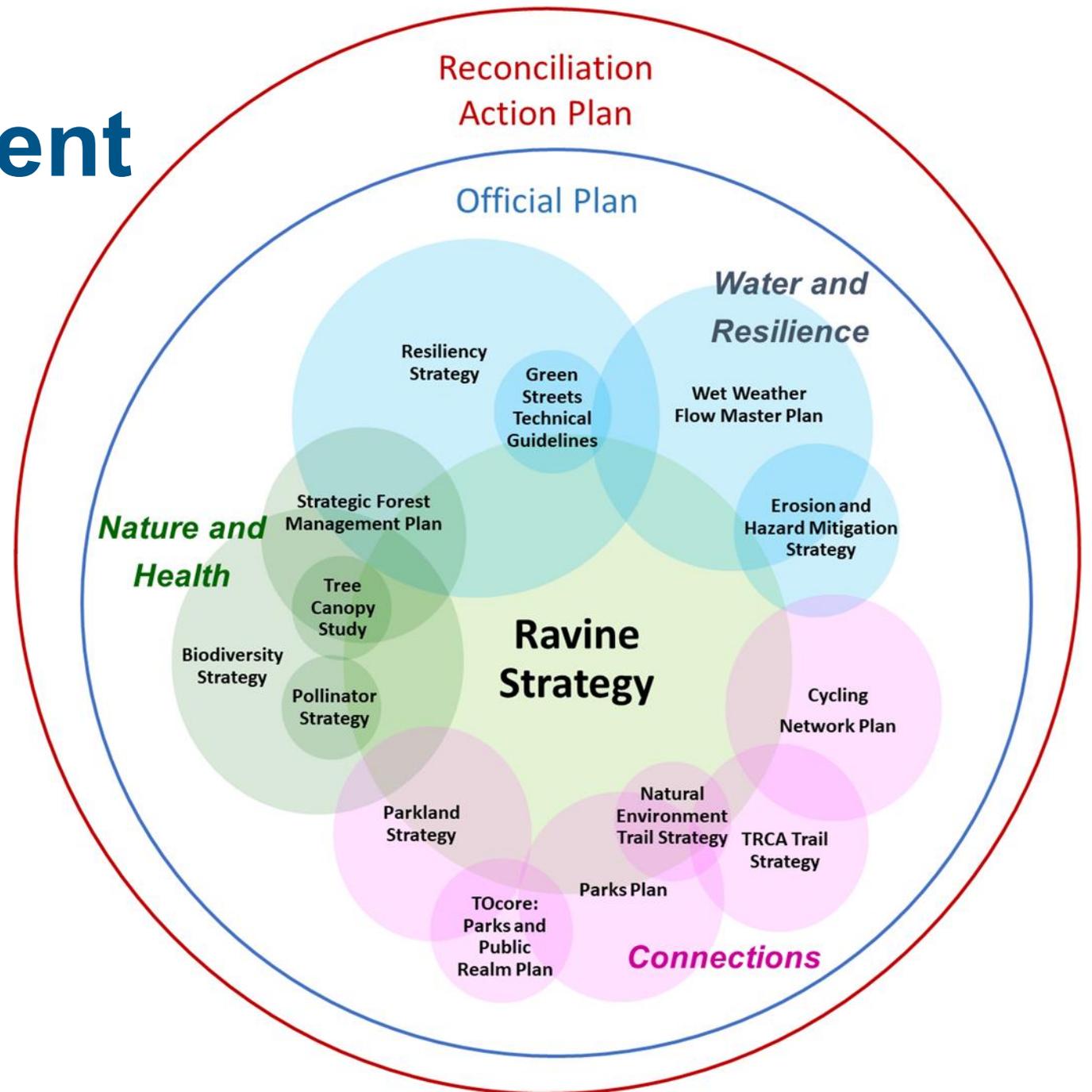


Celebrate



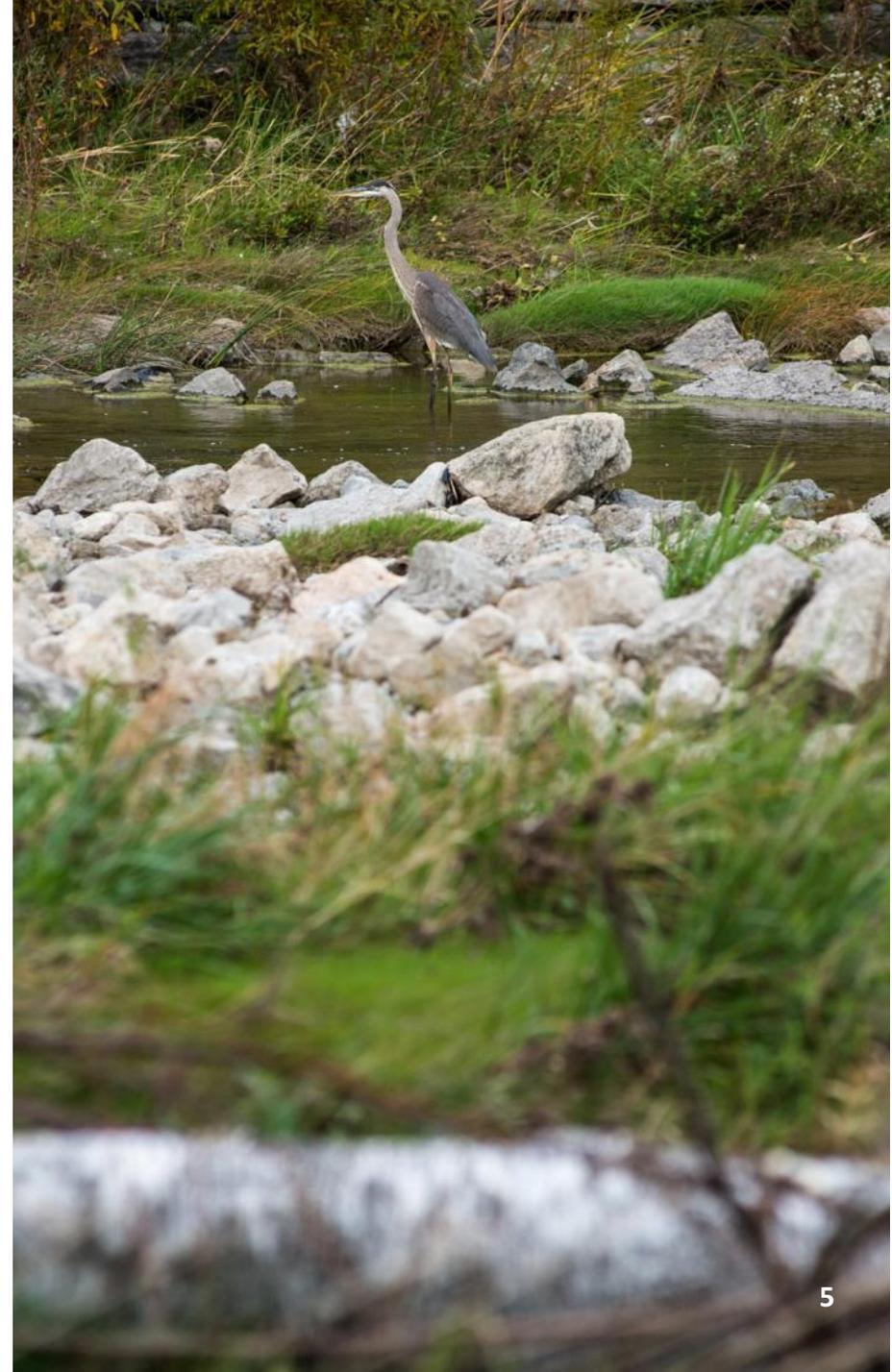
Strategy Alignment

The Ravine Strategy implements the Official Plan and supports and aligns with other Divisional strategies and plans:



Achievements since 2020

- 3,760 hectares of land improved, including management of invasive species
- 521 tonnes garbage and metal removed from 681 hectares of ravine land
- 181 students engaged through employment and training programs
- 265 Ravine Days events
- Over 20,000 participants engaged in City and partner events
- 16 capital projects delivered totalling \$12.3 million
- Capital constraints in Priority Investment Areas reduced from \$104.9 million to \$50.2 million (2026), through increased intergovernmental and City investment



Improving Ecological Health

- 300% increase in land managed by staff, including Environmentally Significant Areas
- 1,000% increase in land managed by contractors
- Increased opportunities for youth and volunteers :
 - Expanded City-led tree planting and stewardship
 - New student internship programs
 - Establishment of Community-Led Restoration Programs, including with Toronto Nature Stewards and Don't Mess with the Don
- City-wide ESA Management Plan and Framework:
 - Establishes a core value and guiding principles
 - Provides a consistent approach for ESA-specific plans
 - Developed with Indigenous treaty and rights holders, urban Indigenous, and the public



Community-led Restoration

- Additional community-led volunteer opportunities for stewardship, in addition to efforts through staff, contractors and City-led volunteer stewardship
- 2026:
 - 53 approved sites (~128 ha)
 - over 2000 volunteers each year
 - 35 invasive species approved for removal
- 2025-2026: new funding for staff to work on priority sites with activities not appropriate for volunteers (e.g. large invasive tree removal, pesticide application, woody debris management)



InTO the Ravines

Mobilizes local communities to lead activities that build a sense of care, connection and protection for Toronto's ravines including:

- Training and supporting Ravine Champions
- Microgrants to host cultural celebrations, environmental education, and wellness activities in ravines
- Supporting community events and programs including walks, workshops, and stewardship activities

5-year impact:

- More than 7,000 residents engaged
- 230 community events delivered
- City's \$0.545 million investment matched and exceeded by Park People fundraising, resulting in a total investment of \$1.09 million



The Loop Trail and Ravine Campaign

- A **72 km trail network** that will connect the Don and Humber ravines, the Finch Hydro Corridor, and the waterfront.
- A **fundraising campaign** that leverages municipal, regional and philanthropic funding to fill gaps in the trail network, enhance the trail user experience through new amenities, and support community activation of ravines

Partner Roles:

- **City:** Ravine Strategy vision, lands manager, capital project delivery, lead agreements.
- **Evergreen:** Lead community activation and design consultation, fundraising campaign and donor relations.
- **Toronto Foundation:** Trustee and fund management.
- **TRCA:** Landowner for ravines and waterfront, environmental assessments.



International Recognition and Collaboration

Toronto selected as one of 13 role model cities by the United Nations Environment Programme's Generation Restoration project (2023-2025).



Recommendations

1. ECF to **enter into agreements with Park People for inTO the Ravines** until end of 2028
2. P&R to **accept and use third-party funds and/or donations** from Loop Trail Campaign
3. ECF to permanently **implement the Community-led Restoration Program**
4. ECF to **enter into agreements** with organizations for the Community-led Restoration Program (e.g. Toronto Nature Stewards)
5. City's **participation in Cities With Nature**, an initiative that recognizes and enhances that value of nature in and around cities across the world, including submission of application by ECF for the City of Toronto to participate



