

5.0 THE LIVING CITY

5.1 VISION

TRCA's evolution to The Living City reached a milestone in 2003, when our Board endorsed The Living City vision. The vision reflects the assertion of the United Nations that the future of the planet will be determined in rapidly expanding city-regions, such as our own Greater Toronto Area. Therefore:

Our vision is for a new kind of community, The Living City, where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity.

5.2 MISSION

TRCA's mission is to work with our partners to ensure that The Living City is built on a natural foundation of healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity, and sustainable communities.

5.3 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Living City is a broad vision that can only be achieved with the help of our partners and the community, as we aim to fulfill our four strategic objectives:

Healthy Rivers and Shorelines - To restore the integrity and health of the region's rivers and waters from the *headwaters* in the Oak Ridges Moraine to the Lake Ontario waterfront.

Greenspace and Biodiversity - To protect and restore a regional system of natural areas that provides habitat for plants and animal species, improves air quality, and provides opportunities for the enjoyment of nature and outdoor recreation.

Sustainable Communities - To facilitate broad community understanding, dialogue, and action toward integrated approaches to sustainable living and city building that improves the quality of life for residents, businesses, and nature.

Business Excellence - To pursue continuous improvement in the development and delivery of all programs through creative partnerships, diverse funding sources, and careful auditing of outcomes and effectiveness.

5.4 BUILDING THE LIVING CITY: TRCA STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 - 2022

In 2013, TRCA's Board approved the 10-Year Strategic Plan: Building The Living City, whose central theme remains The Living City vision: a new kind of community where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity. The Plan states that the vision is firmly based on the four pillars of TRCA's ongoing commitment to healthy rivers and shorelines, greenspace and biodiversity, sustainable communities, and business excellence.

5.5 PRINCIPLES

Grounded in TRCA's Vision and Strategic Objectives, the following principles represent the fundamental basis for TRCA's role in the planning and development of The Living City.

Principle 1

A healthy natural heritage and water resource system is the foundation of a sustainable community.

Principle 2

The design of sustainable communities is based on the inter-dependent relationship between humans and the environment to promote a culture of conservation.

Principle 3

The long term ecological function, integrity and resilience of natural systems is best achieved through a science-based integrated watershed management approach.

Principle 4

Protection of life and property from flooding and erosion hazards is dependent on natural system protection, restoration and remediation, inclusive of valley and corridor landforms, wetlands, watercourses and shorelines.

Principle 5

Sound development and resource management decisions in an urbanizing region are best made in a watershed context that considers both incremental change and cumulative impacts over time.

Principle 6

Development and redevelopment should contribute to the prevention, elimination, and reduction in risk from flooding, erosion, and slope instability.

Principle 7

The planning and development of sustainable communities requires a collaborative approach among TRCA and its partners to incorporate innovative community design that optimizes long term economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits.

Principle 8

Adaptive watershed management requires a preventative and proactive approach to address the potential impacts of urbanization and climate change.

Principle 9

A robust and connected greenlands system made up of natural habitats and scenic public places is essential for the long term recreational enjoyment and health of The Living City.