



INTRODUCTION

Building The Living City[®], lays out the strategic directions Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) intends to pursue for the 10 year period from 2013 to 2022. It emphasizes our paramount commitment to safeguarding and enhancing the health and well-being of the residents of the Toronto region through the protection and restoration of the natural environment and the fundamental ecological services our environment provides. The central theme of this commitment is expressed through our adoption and endorsement of The Living City vision – **“a new kind of community...where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature’s beauty and diversity.”**

The Strategic Plan reaffirms our commitment to the enduring ideals that gave rise to Ontario’s Conservation Authorities in the middle of the last century.

Threaded through this document is a steadfast commitment to wise land-use and the responsible management of natural resources, the protection of life and property from natural hazards (such as flooding and erosion), collaboration with our partners and the community, the empowerment of local initiatives, the importance of life-long education, and the watershed-based approach to conservation.

Looking forward to the next 10 years of change and promise, TRCA seeks to fulfill its mandate and apply its ideals to arrive at sensible answers to the new realities that are shaping the future of the Toronto region – including a growing and evolving population, urban expansion, the impacts of climate change, and economic changes unfolding both locally and on the global stage.

Over the next 10 years, TRCA and our partners in the community will continue working together to realize The Living City vision in the Toronto region. We will work to restore the integrity and health of the region’s rivers and waters. We will work to establish a regional system of natural areas that preserves habitat, improves air and water quality, and provides opportunities for the enjoyment of nature and outdoor recreation. And we will work to facilitate broad community support for sustainable living and city building that improves the quality of life for residents, businesses and nature.

We invite everyone to take an active role in building a healthy future for the Toronto region. Read this Plan carefully, find your own place in it, and join us in putting the words on these pages into action. We also invite our partners to look for opportunities to advance their own efforts at building a sustainable future for the Toronto region through the work, expertise and resources offered by TRCA. We look forward to working with you.