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February 1, 2021

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RICHMOND HILL, ON L4E 0Z4

RE: INTEGRATED URBAN WATER PLAN EA

York Region Environmental Alliance (YREA) has reviewed the first virtual presentation and commends Vaughan for their commitment to public engagement. A very positive outcome will ensure if this vision is put into action. YREA's comments below expand on some of the issues in the plan:

- Green infrastructure in the form of stormwater ponds provide ecosystem services such as **temperature regulation**, water purification and natural aesthetics while supporting biodiversity through habitat creation for aquatic, riparian and other wildlife species which are a pleasure to observe at our neighbourhood ponds. However, the function of stormwater ponds would be greatly improved if the soil at time of construction was of higher quality, thus ensuring the survival of more trees which absorb large amounts of water through their roots. Tree planting also supports erosion control but again, survival rates would rise with better soil at time of planting.
- Permeable paving is an excellent way of keeping water at its source and these materials need to be mandated in any new developments and renovations. There are locally manufactured [permeable paving](#) options that are also [environmentally friendly](#) derived from recycled rubber tires and plastic with 20 year guarantees. A more flexible surface than concrete for sidewalks would be applauded by joggers who often can be seen using roads instead.
- Some residents who live in compact housing are paving over their entire properties for more parking. Not only does this contribute to the urban heat island effect, but also to large amounts of stormwater runoff. Permeable paving would certainly have a positive impact of water flow in these situations.
- Residents need to be directed to disconnect downspouts from storm sewers, thereby providing more water for their gardens and be informed about the detrimental impact of the overuse of road salt on the environment and the use of other alternatives.
- With the loss of so much of Vaughan's tree canopy due to disease, it is imperative to keep planting trees not only to mitigate climate change with carbon capture but to cool the environment and absorb large quantities of water. The shameful image in this submission should never be allowed to happen.



A very well presented plan. YREA looks forward to seeing the follow through and positive results of implementation.

Sincerely
Gloria Marsh, Executive Director
York Region Environmental Alliance
Partnering for a greener planet