

### Section I – Items for Board of Directors Action

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Board of Directors  
Meeting #10/19, Friday, November 29, 2019

**FROM:** Darryl Gray, Director, Education and Training

**RE:** **HUMBER ARBORETUM STRATEGIC PLAN**  
Endorsement of the Humber Arboretum Strategic Plan

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#### KEY ISSUE

Endorsement of the 2019 – 2024 Humber Arboretum Strategic Plan.

#### RECOMMENDATION

**WHEREAS** Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), along with the City of Toronto and Humber College, is a founding partner of the Humber Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology;

**AND WHEREAS** TRCA, the City of Toronto and Humber College worked collaboratively to develop a new Strategic Plan to guide the work of the Humber Arboretum;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Directors endorse the Humber Arboretum Strategic Plan;

**AND FURTHER THAT** TRCA staff continue to work with the City of Toronto, Humber College and Humber Arboretum to achieve the goals of the Humber Arboretum Strategic Plan.

#### BACKGROUND

Established in 1977 through a partnership between Humber College, the City of Toronto and TRCA, the Humber Arboretum comprises 105 hectares of botanical gardens, natural heritage areas and learning spaces, including the Centre for Urban Ecology, a majority of which is located on TRCA-owned land. The Humber Arboretum's historic objectives have been to establish and maintain living plant collections, demonstrate correct horticultural and arboricultural techniques, conserve and restore natural areas and wildlife, facilitate research and education, and provide a welcoming space for people to gather.

Opened in 2007 and built to replace the previous Nature Centre, the Centre for Urban Ecology at Humber Arboretum is a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certified learning and community engagement hub that complements the botanical and ecological features of the site. With an annual attendance of over 12,000 visitors, both the Centre for Urban Ecology and Humber Arboretum provide an important educational resource for Humber College students, faculty, and school groups from local school boards. Additionally, the Centre for Urban Ecology provides a venue for special events, summer camps, meetings and other functions that support the ongoing operations of the Arboretum.

### RATIONALE

2017 marked the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Humber College, along with the 40th anniversary of the development of Humber Arboretum. Through a unique tripartite partnership, Humber College, City of Toronto and TRCA provide operational support and leadership to ensure that the Arboretum and Centre for Urban Ecology achieve the shared strategic objectives of the partner organizations. Recognizing the importance of the partnership that governs the Arboretum, TRCA, Humber College and the City of Toronto undertook a strategic planning process in 2018 to provide a framework for the future management and growth of the Arboretum. This strategic planning process sought to build on the strength of the collaborative while responding to the needs of the local community and the students attending Humber College.

The 2019 Humber Arboretum Strategic Plan recognizes the important role that the Arboretum plays in advancing learning and community health outcomes both within the student body at Humber College, as well as in the broader community. With this in mind, the 2019 Strategic Plan updates the Arboretum's Vision and Mission:

#### *Vision:*

*Humber Arboretum is a thriving natural ecosystem and outdoor learning space that advances the highest potential and wellbeing of the community through strengthening our relationships with nature and with each other.*

#### *Mission:*

*Together we: Protect and care for our natural world in ways that continually model leading practices and motivate others to emulate and further develop these practices. Facilitate nature-based experiences and nurture environments that foster learning, spark innovation, and inspire action. Connect people with nature to benefit the health of both and uplift the well-being of communities*

To deliver on the Vision and Mission, the Arboretum Strategic Plan has categorized activities into three core priority areas that acknowledge the important interconnections between the learning programs, community activities and the ecological context within which these are delivered:

- World Ready Citizens
- Healthy Communities
- Thriving Nature

Each of these priority areas aligns with the strategic objectives of the partner organizations, Humber College, City of Toronto and TRCA, and furthers the objectives of the Arboretum.

### **Relationship to Building the Living City, the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan**

This report supports the following strategies set forth in the TRCA 2013-2022 Strategic Plan:

**Strategy 2 – Manage our regional water resources for current and future generations**

**Strategy 3 – Rethink greenspace to maximize its value**

**Strategy 5 – Foster sustainable citizenship**

**Strategy 7 – Build partnerships and new business models**

## Item 7.1

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Attachments: 1

Attachment 1: Humber Arboretum 2019-2024 Strategic Plan