

Town of Ajax – Urban Forest Management Plan



Where We Are Today

- Ajax urban forest, including trees and shrubs cover, is approximately 18.4%

- tree cover accounting for 14.6%

This forest cover is growing both on private and public property

A highly functioning complex ecosystem

- Both local government and resident input



Development of the Plan

The Focus of the Plan 2011-2015



The Plan Includes

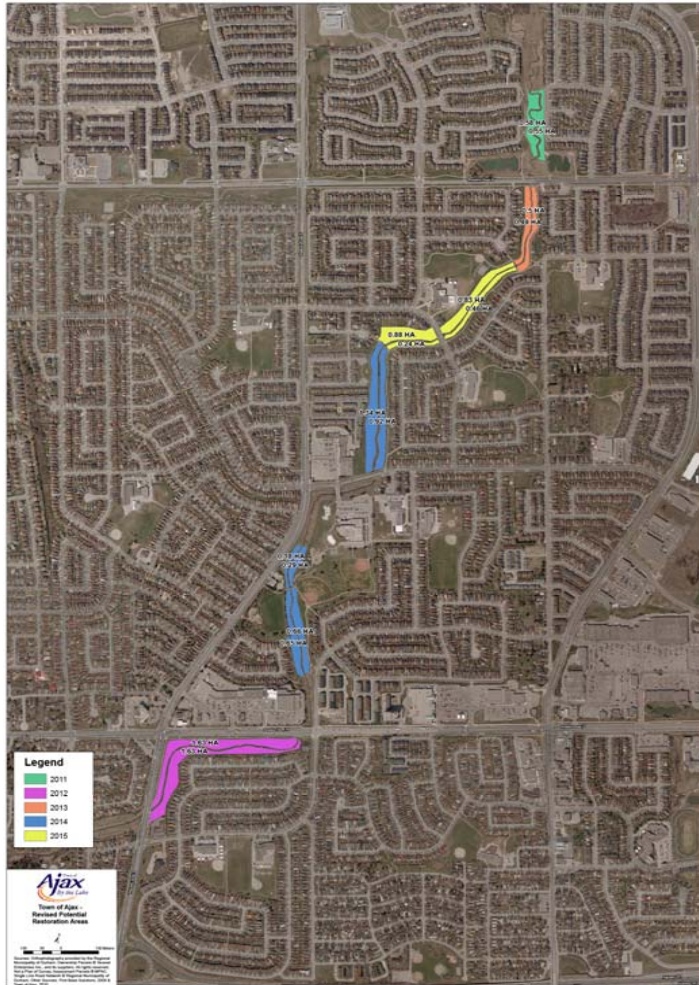
- Municipal Arboricultural Standards and Practices;
- Tree Establishment and Urban Forest Enhancement;
- Urban Forest Pest Management;
- The Planning and Development Process;
- A Private Tree By-law;
- Protecting and Enhancing Wooded Natural Areas, and;
- Awareness, Engagement and Partnerships

Municipal Arboricultural Standards and Practices



- **Develop Municipal Tree Inventory**
- **Improve Pruning Cycle** – Prune trees at a younger age. Specifically new development.
- **Develop Risk Management Policy**
- **Urban Forestry Working Group (UFWG)** - Develop policies, standards, management practices, tree protection standards, - Consistent throughout Departments.

Tree Establishment and Urban Forest Enhancement



Restoration Plan 2011-2015

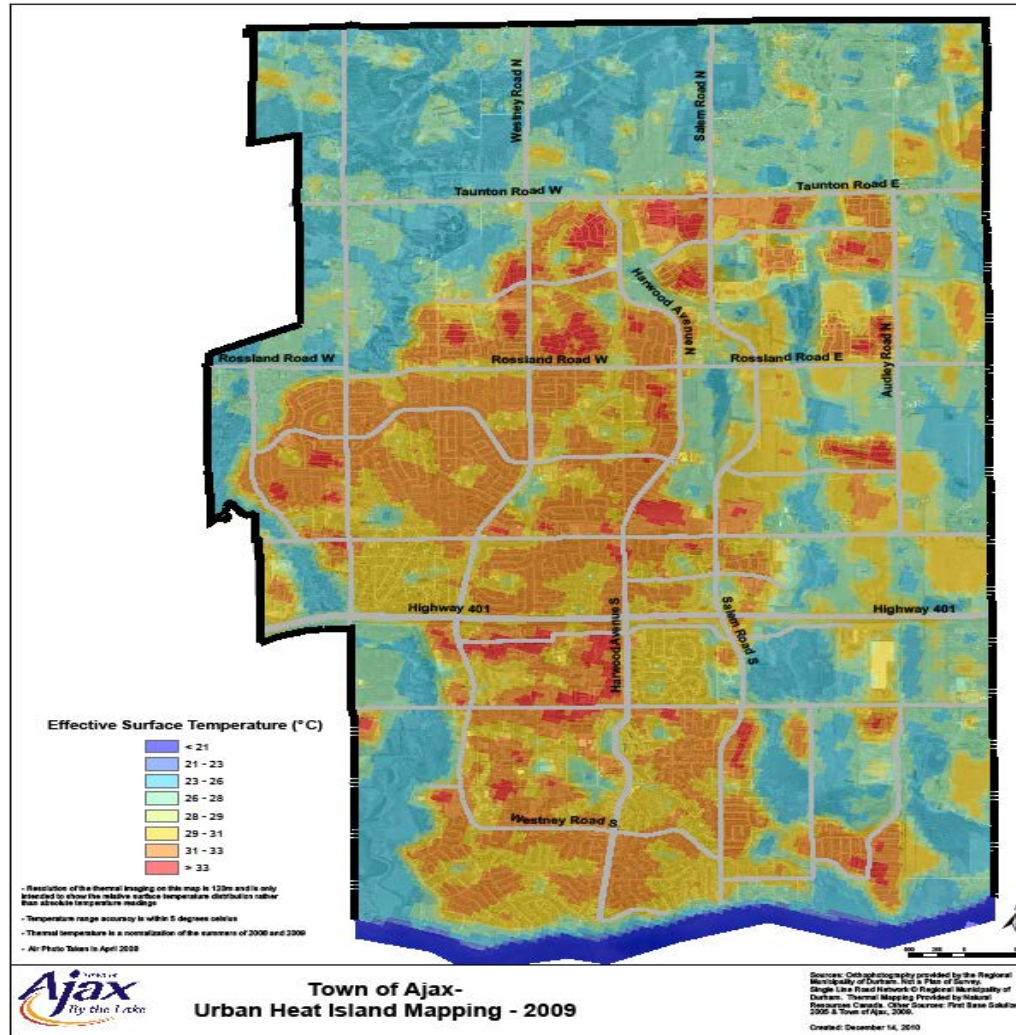
Planting of trees within:

- Capital Projects and Development
- Park Restoration Projects
- Down Town Improvements
- Parking Lot Retrofits

(All to improve heat islands effects, air and water quality)

Five Year Town of Ajax Planting Locations

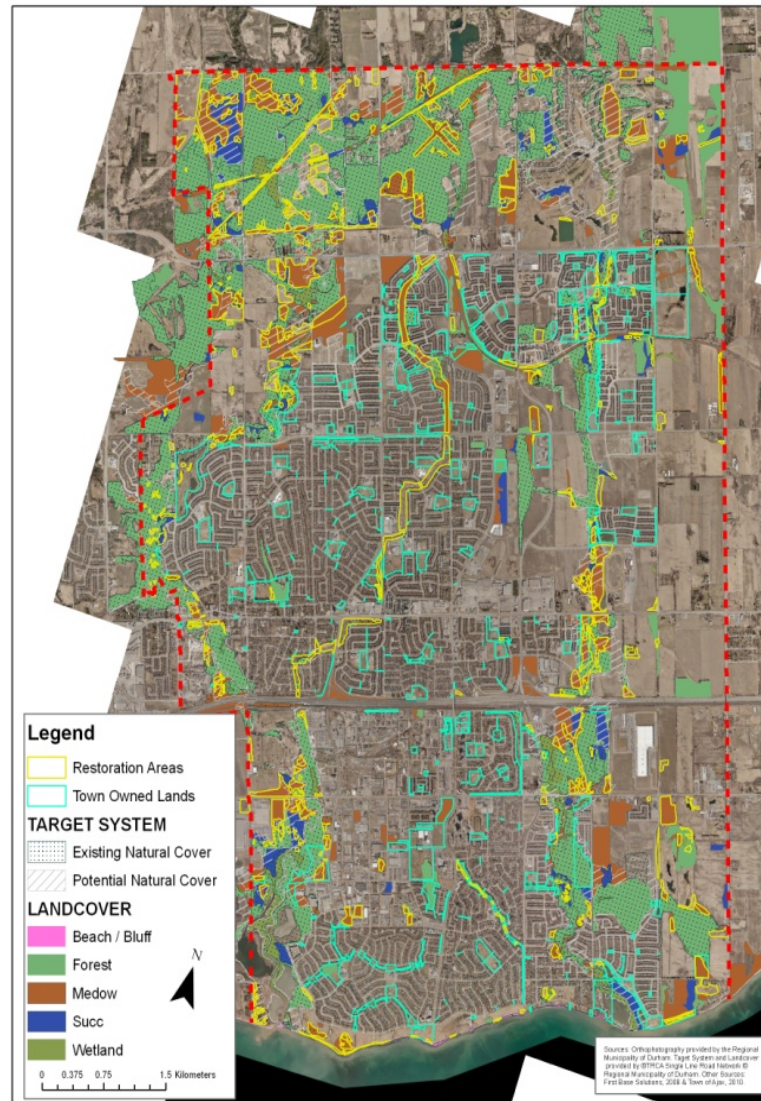
Town of Ajax Urban Heat Islands



Natural Succession



Town of Ajax and TRCA Plantable Space



Urban Forest Pest Management

- **Prepare for Emerald Ash Borer** -
Developing a plan
- **Respond to Tree Inventory** - Identify
where ash trees are located
- **Part of Risk Management Policy**
- **Invasive Species** – Actively manage



The Planning and Development Process



Develop Operating Procedures – support the Urban Forest

Urban Forestry Working Group (UFWG)– Site Plan Manual, including compensation

A Private Tree By-law

- **Cost Benefit Analysis (2014)** - Based on Resources
- **Explore a Heritage Tree Identification Program** – Establish Criteria, community outreach to identify
- **Focus on our own Process** – New development, Building Permits, Infrastructure maintenance





- **Identify remnant hedgerows and tree stands.**
- **Working with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to enhance through planting and restoration initiatives.**

Protecting and Enhancing
Wooded Natural Areas

Awareness, Engagement and Partnerships

Urban Forestry Working Group (UFWG)

Subsidy Programs

- Partnerships (school boards, Durham Health, homeowners, Conservation Authorities)
- Funding
- Working with LEAF (2012 Capital Project)

Communication Program

- Promotion
- Website
- Durham Health
- Made in the Shade
- School Groups
- Funding Opportunities



Measurable

25 Criteria

- Baseline established in 2010 as part of Urban Forest Study.
- Revisit in five years and use the same criteria to see how we measure up from initiatives.



Key Action Items

Engagement
of both local
government and
residents of Ajax

In the first five years
maintain and
enhance our forest
cover

Further develop
stewardship and
partnerships