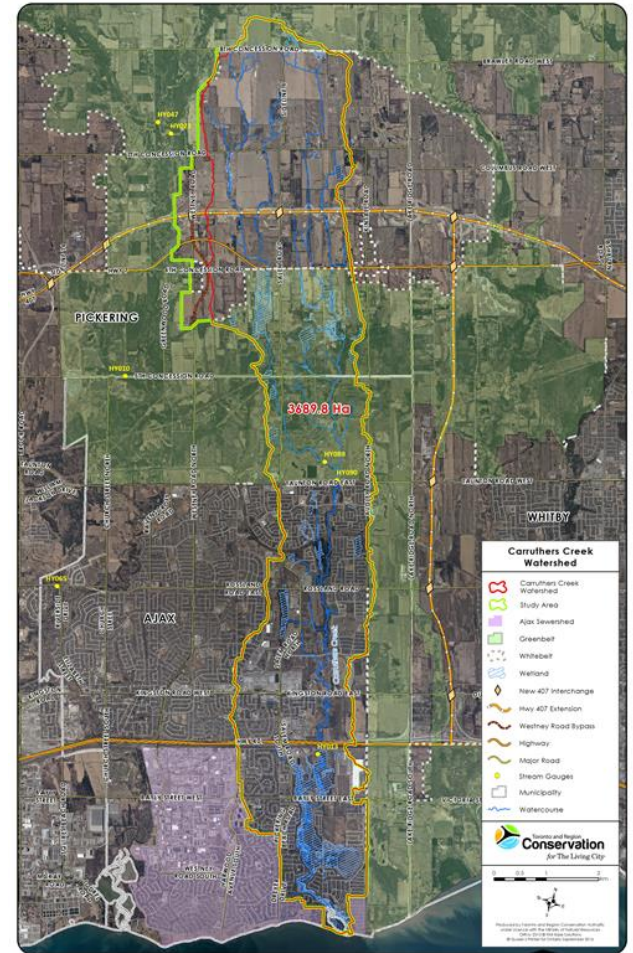
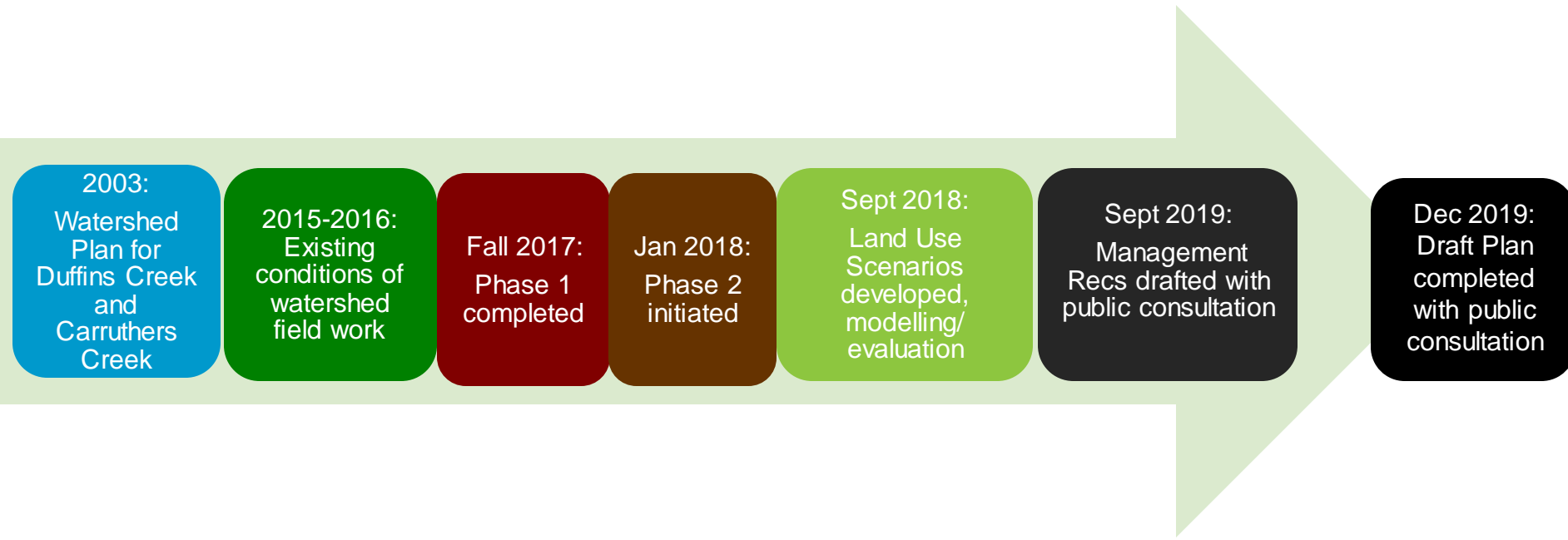


# Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Update

# Carruthers Creek Watershed

- Small Yet Important
  - Approximately 3,748 hectares
  - 2-3km in width, 18km in length
- Easternmost watershed in TRCA jurisdiction
- Entirely within Region of Durham (City of Pickering + Town of Ajax)
- Home to 41,000 residents
- Headwaters form south of Oak Ridges Moraine
- Mainly rural north of Hwy 7, urbanized south of Taunton Rd., majority Protected Countryside of provincial Greenbelt between Hwy 7 and Taunton Rd.





# Introduction to Phase 2 of Watershed Plan Update

Key Task	
1	Establish updated <b>goals and objectives</b> for the watershed.
2	<b>Develop targets</b> for the watershed and identify the actions required to achieve the goals and objectives (Based on Phase 1 reports)
3	<b>Establish watershed response methodologies/assessments</b> that will be used to measure how the watershed could be expected to respond to changes in land use and other factors, such as climate change.
4	<b>Develop, model and evaluate five scenarios for the watershed</b> , consisting of historic conditions, existing conditions, approved development (as per current Official Plan designations), enhanced natural heritage system, and a development scenario with an enhanced natural heritage system.
5	Formulate and evaluate candidate <b>management actions</b> to achieve the desired state of watershed health.
6	<b>Develop Management Recommendations.</b>
7	<b>Deliver the completed Watershed Plan.</b>



**Phase 2:  
Public and  
Stakeholder  
Consultation  
2018 - 2019**

STAGE 1:  
Consultation on 2003  
Vision +  
Management  
Philosophy  
2018 – Q1 to Q3

STAGE 2:  
Consultation on  
Management  
Recommendations  
2019 – Q2 to Q3

STAGE 3:  
Consultation on  
Draft Watershed Plan  
2019 – Q3 to Q4

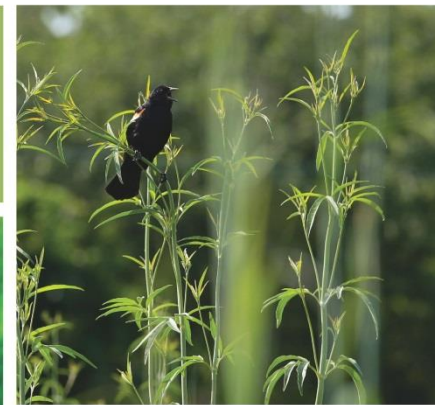
# Communications and Consultation Summary (Phase 2, Stage 1)

- Extensive stakeholder and public consultation
- Developed the *Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan Communications and Consultation Strategy*
  - Received by Durham Region Council in May 2018
- Completed *Communications and Consultation Summary Report (Phase 2, Stage 1)*
  - Received by Durham Region Council in May 2019



**NET GAIN**

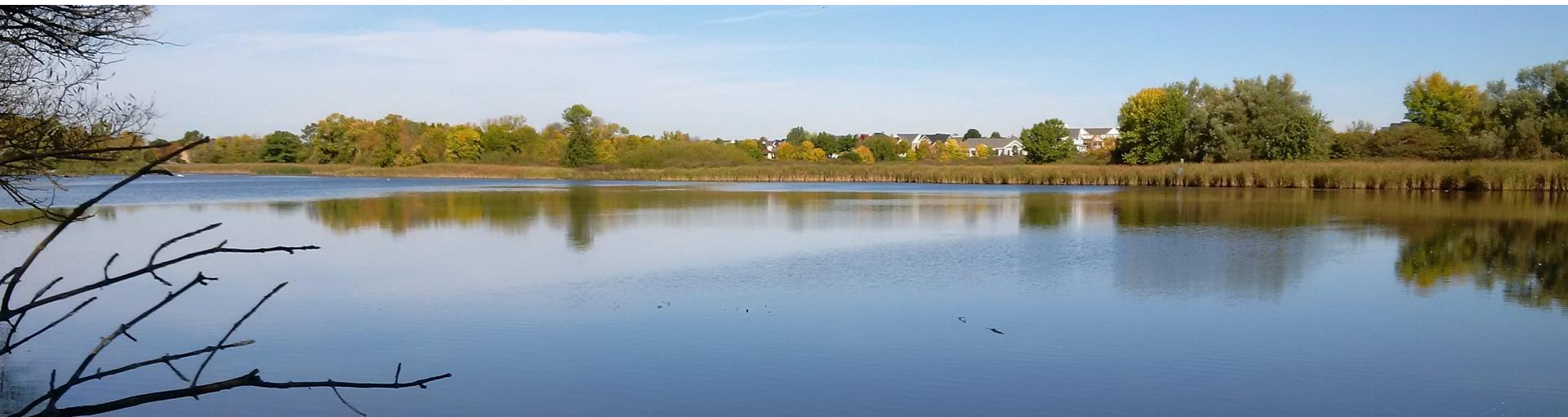
**ENVIRONMENT  
FIRST**





# Communications and Consultation Summary (Phase 2, Stage 1)

- Purpose of the consultation for Phase 2, Stage 1 was to:
  - Raise awareness about the Carruthers Creek Watershed Plan update
  - Inform partners, stakeholders, and general public about the watershed planning process
  - Gather feedback/input on an updated Vision Statement
  - Hear about preliminary issues and ideas to be considered in Phase 2



# Who was Consulted

- Region of Durham, Town of Ajax, and City of Pickering
  - Councils, Staff, Advisory Committees
- Residents within and neighbouring the watershed
- Environmental stakeholders
- Landowners
  - Farmers, golf course operators, businesses, land developers

**HUMAN HEALTH  
& SAFETY**



**BALANCE  
LAND USE**



**EVERYONE  
COUNTS**



# What was Done

Phase 2 Consultation Methods	
1	<b>Project website</b> at <a href="https://yoursay.ca/carruthers-creek">https://yoursay.ca/carruthers-creek</a>
2	<b>Dedicated e-mail address</b> at <a href="mailto:carruthers@trca.ca">carruthers@trca.ca</a>
3	<b>Online surveys</b> which were posted on the project website
4	<b>Create outreach/communication tools</b> including the promotional post card to drive traffic to the website.
5	<b>In-person outreach</b> through different approaches such as pop-ups at local community events
6	<b>Stakeholder outreach</b> with a diverse range of stakeholders including advisory committees, golf course operators, residents, business owners, etc.
7	<b>Reports to Region of Durham Committee/Council</b> at key milestones
8	<b>Staff-to-Staff meetings</b> with municipal staff
9	<b>Media and Social Media Communications</b> throughout the project

# What we Heard

- Impacts from **urban development** and population growth on ecosystem
- Health of the natural environment, noting concerns about how to reduce the spread of **invasive species**.
- How to reduce habitat loss and **increase biodiversity**.
- Concerns about **waste, illegal dumping**, excessive fill placement in the headwaters
- Concerns about **human/pet encroachment** particularly in sensitive areas
- Insufficient **storm water management** in the urban portion of the watershed
- Concerns about erosion, silt, road salt, and pesticides in surface runoff
- **Flooding** risks due to upstream development
- Political commitment and **funding** for maintaining a sustainable watershed.
- **Climate change** impacts.
- Lack of environmental protection for Carruthers watershed outside the **Greenbelt**

# Vision Statement – Feedback

- Generally positive feedback that 2003 Vision remains relevant
- Frequently heard feedback for a new Vision:
  - Incorporate resiliency
  - Emphasize sustainability, restoration, and retrofitting
  - Highlight importance of research and sound science
  - Focus on health benefits of nature
  - Encourage all stakeholders to participate
  - Keep it direct and to the point (2003 Vision is long)
  - Make sure it is implemented



Carruthers Creek watershed is a **healthy** and **resilient** natural system that is managed through **partnerships** to balance resource protection with human activity. **Sound science** and **best management practices** will protect and restore ecosystem functions, protect watershed residents from natural hazards like flooding, and maintain our natural heritage and water resources for **present and future generations.**

# Next Steps - Communications and Consultation

- Continue to implement *Consultation Strategy*
- Finalize Table of Contents for Watershed Plan
- Draft Management Recommendations (Phase 2, Stage 2) consultation to be completed in Fall 2019
- Draft Watershed Plan (Phase 2, Stage 3) consultation to be completed in December 2019



# Management Recommendations

- Will support the new Vision and address the Goals, Objectives and Targets
  - Focused, prioritized, realistic, actionable
- Formulated as technical work is completed and peer-reviewed
- Review of draft management recommendations with municipal staff
  - Region of Durham, City of Pickering, Town of Ajax
- Management recommendation consultation with all stakeholders (Phase 2, Stage 2):
  - Indigenous partners
  - Provincial and Federal Agencies
  - Public Open House
  - Project Website



**Goal:** Enhance the natural heritage system for improved ecosystem resilience



**Objective:** Increase the percentage of the watershed represented through the enhanced natural heritage system



**Target:** % natural cover



**Management Recommendation(s):** Adopt the enhanced Natural Heritage System through municipal policies

Carry out identified priority restoration projects

# Questions/Comments

<https://yoursay.ca/carruthers-creek>

[www.trca.ca](http://www.trca.ca)