

5 Foster sustainable citizenship



To foster engagement of community members, TRCA needs to build civic capacity by providing the tools and opportunities needed for community members to transition from participants into advocates and leaders. TRCA can also facilitate a two-way dialogue with community members to ensure that local knowledge, ideas and concerns are integrated into decision-making by governments and agencies.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

1. Improved community awareness and understanding of important environmental issues and the work being done by TRCA to protect the environment and make the region more sustainable.
2. More frequent engagement by community members in nature-based educational, recreational activities, and sustainability actions.
3. Strong community leadership in, and ownership of, watershed planning, community planning, and sustainability initiatives.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS ACHIEVED (2013 – 2017)

- Led the Environmental Leaders of Tomorrow program that helps school-aged children make important connections with nature, and challenges them to develop their ecological literacy and leadership skills.
- Established a Regional Watershed Alliance, whose membership is comprised of citizen representatives, politicians, municipal and NGO representatives, to enable engagement and respond to stakeholder concerns related to watershed management, planning and sustainability issues related to TRCA's mandate in the jurisdiction.
- Increased public awareness of the value of energy and water conservation through educational activities delivered by TRCA's Education, Training and Outreach and Community Transformation teams.

PROJECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2018 – 2022)

- Provide increased engagement opportunities for stakeholders of all ages that build environmental, sustainability and climate awareness and promote leadership within communities including training and capacity building.
- Develop a greater diversity of nature-based programs to attract a wider range of community participants in TRCA programs.
- Work with Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation (TRCF) to secure funding, community awareness and involvement around TRCA and TRCF priority projects including The Meadoway, Tommy Thompson Park, Black Creek Pioneer Village, Bolton Camp redevelopment and the "Look After Where You Live" program.
- Engage school boards and governments in discussions on how to achieve cost efficient and equitable access for students to curriculum out of class nature – science based education activities.

MEASURING PERFORMANCE

TRCA will track participation rates in its programs and events and adjust programs based on data captured on the use of TRCA destinations and programs. TRCA will also specifically monitor youth and elementary aged children participation rates in environmental education programs and planning initiatives. TRCA will map school participation rates in a geospatial database, and report on corresponding demographic, health, academic, and other relevant data.