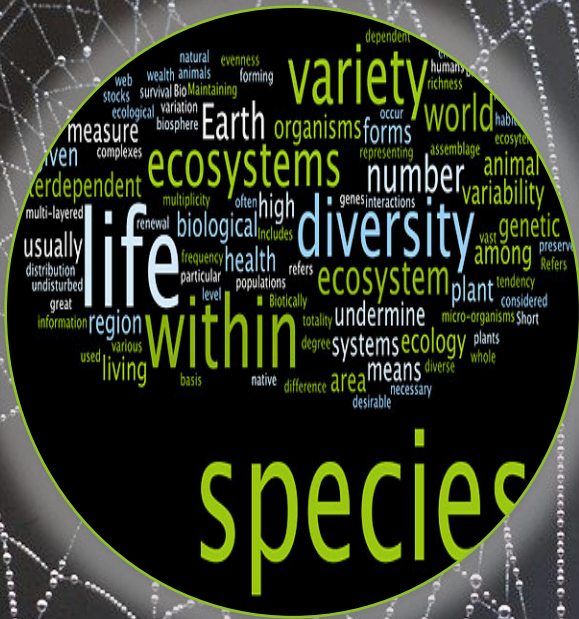


Biodiversity Conservation In the City of Surrey

Pamela Zevit RPBio
Biodiversity Conservation Planner

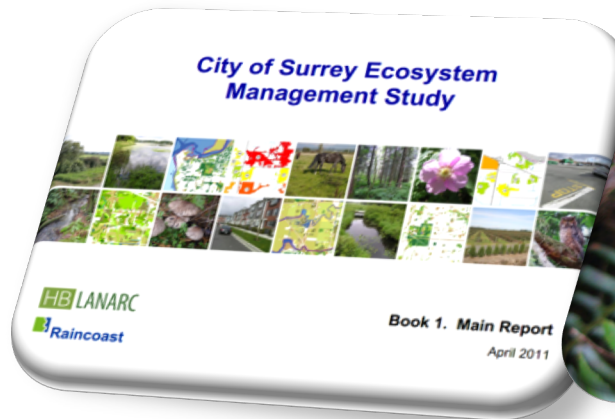
Surrey Board of Trade – Environment Committee
February 4, 2020





Biodiversity reflects the interconnectedness of all life on earth

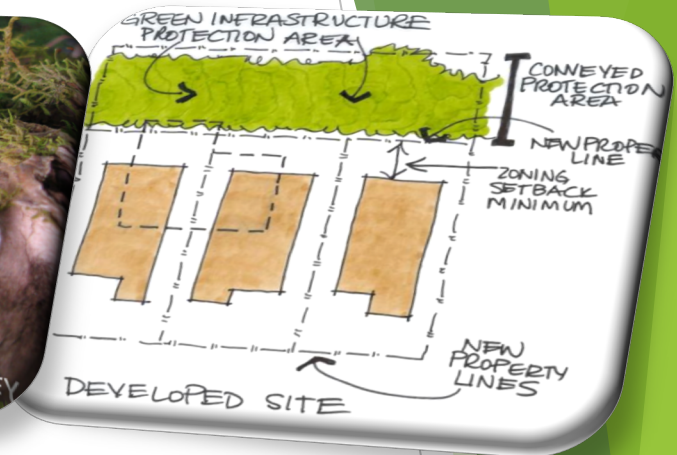
Setting the foundation



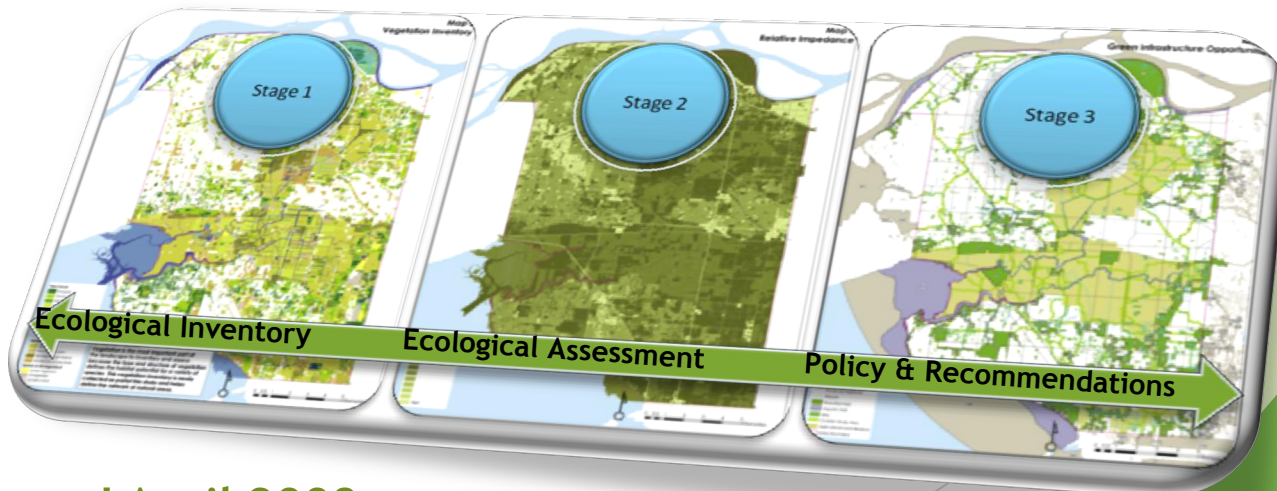
EMS Endorsed by
Council 2011



BCS Endorsed by
Council 2014

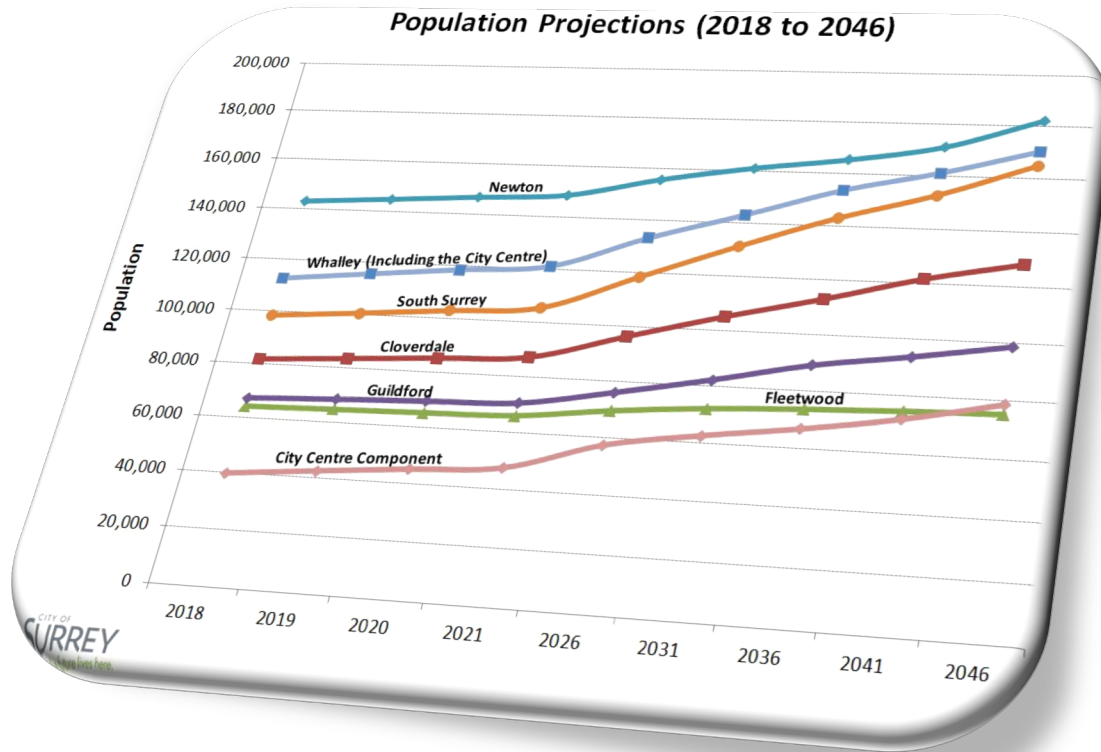


SEDPA Endorsed by
Council 2016

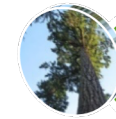


Phase I April 2008

Why conserve biodiversity in Surrey?



- Fastest Growing city in BC, 2018 ~ 560,000 people
- By 2046 projected to be ~800,000 people
- But still supports regionally significant levels of biodiversity and unique habitat values



Habitat Loss



Climate Change



Past Land Use



Public Values



Land Securement \$!



Regulatory Limitations



Political Uncertainty

Green Infrastructure Network (“GIN”)



“Hubs, Corridors, Sites”

HUBS (large natural areas >10ha)

- Provides habitat for a diversity of species (May contain regionally important habitat)
- Source areas for wildlife dispersal
- Provides interior (core) habitat and refuge areas
- Supports species with larger home ranges
- Refuges for species less tolerant of disturbance

Local Corridors

- Narrower corridors 10-50 metres
- Connectivity for species more tolerant of disturbance (e.g. “urban adapters”)
- Greenways through developed areas, utility rights of way
- Connect smaller sites e.g. fragmented habitat
- Riparian corridors of smaller watercourses



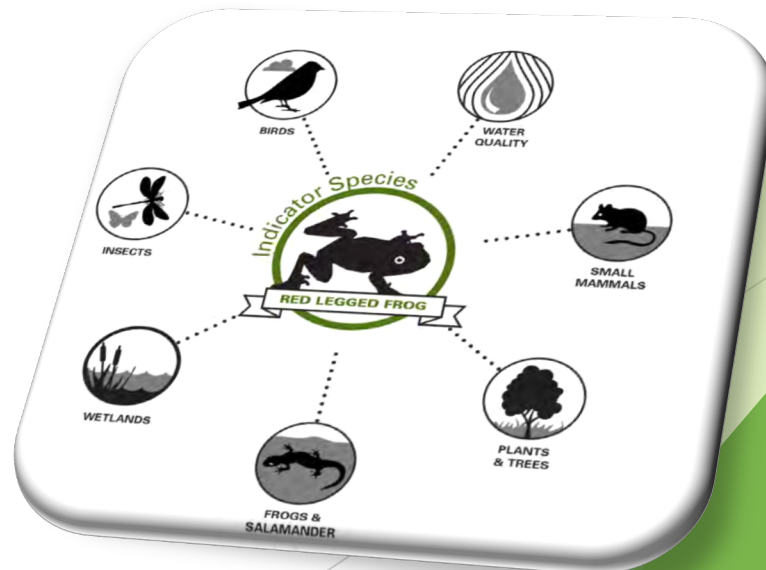
Species Diversity

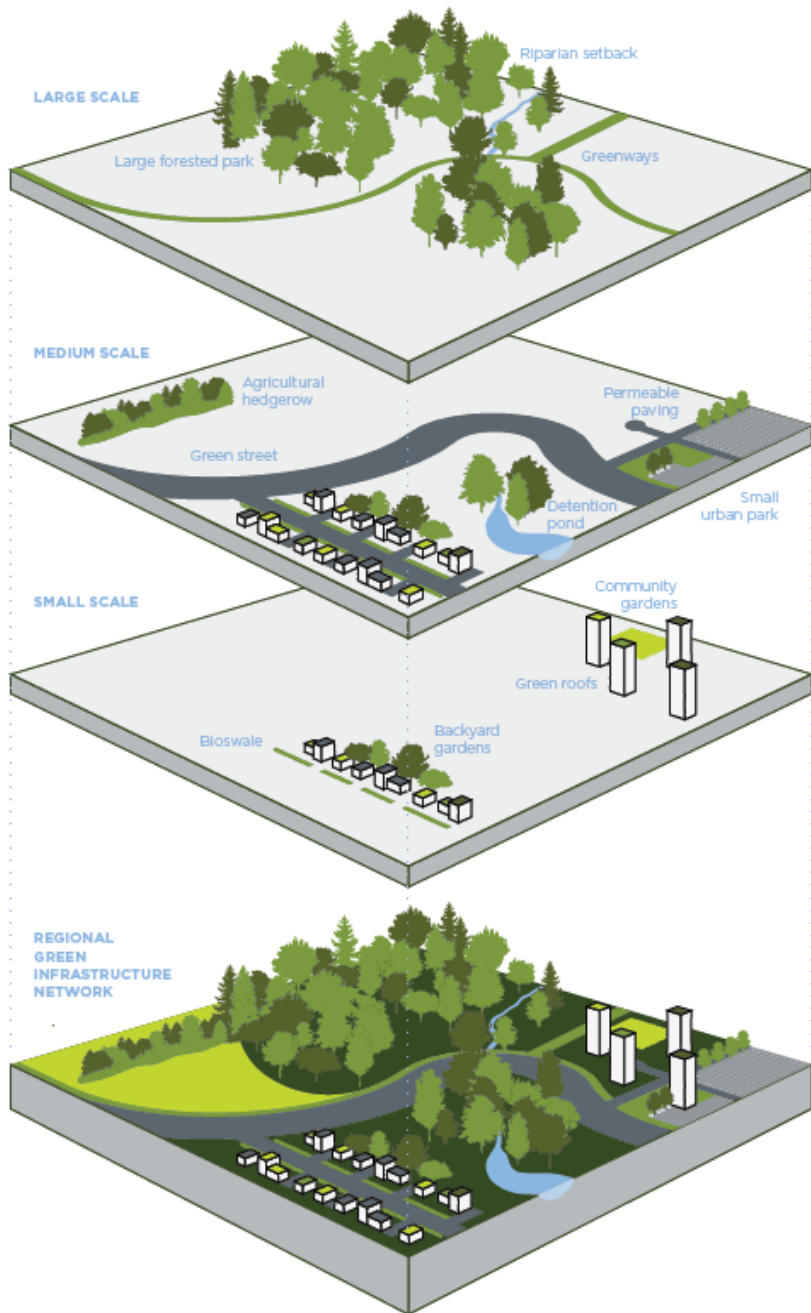
The focus is on management of native species that are present today as well as their habitat associations to help ensure their continued population health and persistence over time.

Indicator species will inform long-term biodiversity monitoring:

- Helps assess development impacts and evaluate management actions.
- Selected based on best representation for each management class

Need to also focus on species at risk as well as managing for invasive species





From the
local...



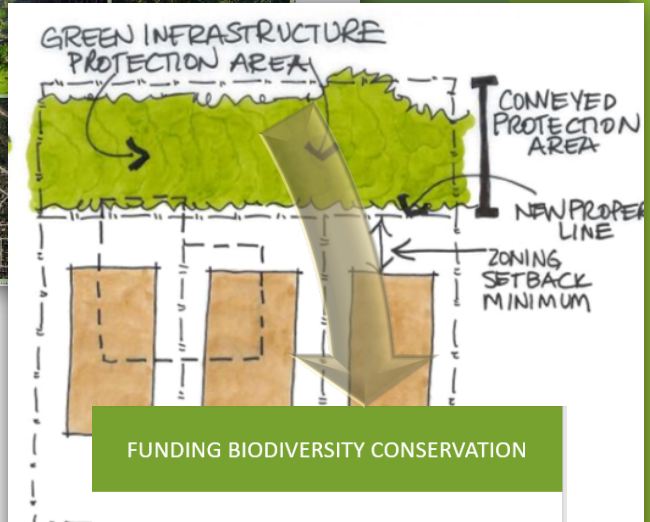
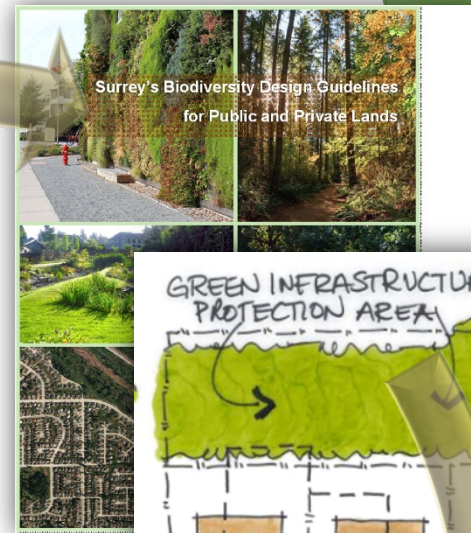
To the
regional scale

What's happening?



Mechanisms:

- Conveyance
- Dedication
- Acquisition
- SEDPA
- Tree Bylaw



The City is reviewing opportunities to adjust the Parkland Acquisition DCC rate to fund the acquisition of green infrastructure network (GIN) lands identified in the City's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS).

The GIN is an interconnected network of open space and natural areas that conserves ecosystem values and functions, provides benefits to people and wildlife, and contributes to creating a livable City.

The BCS identified that approximately 843 acres of GIN lands (at a cost of \$1 Billion dollars, or roughly \$20 Million a year at present land values) would need to be acquired over the next 50 years to maintain biodiversity in Surrey.

Parkland Acquisition DCC rate increases for acquisition of the GIN lands are proposed to be phased in over a number of years, beginning in 2021.



DEVELOPMENT COST CHARGES



Surrey's biodiversity is regionally significant with relatively large natural areas and high levels of local biodiversity, including 1/3 Land in ALR.

This natural capital intrinsically supports the health and well-being we envision for our community:

- Connected, walkable neighbourhoods
- Jobs and economic viability
- Parks and open space - access to nature
- Healthy ecosystems and people
- Salmon and wildlife
- Safety and security

To be successful will require community buy-in and strong partnerships. And we are well on our way!



QUESTIONS?

Contact:

pamela.zevit@surrey.ca

604-590-7254

Biodiversity Conservation Strategy:

<https://www.surrey.ca/city-services/11565.aspx>

Image: Chris Tunnoch