



Green Infrastructure: What's New

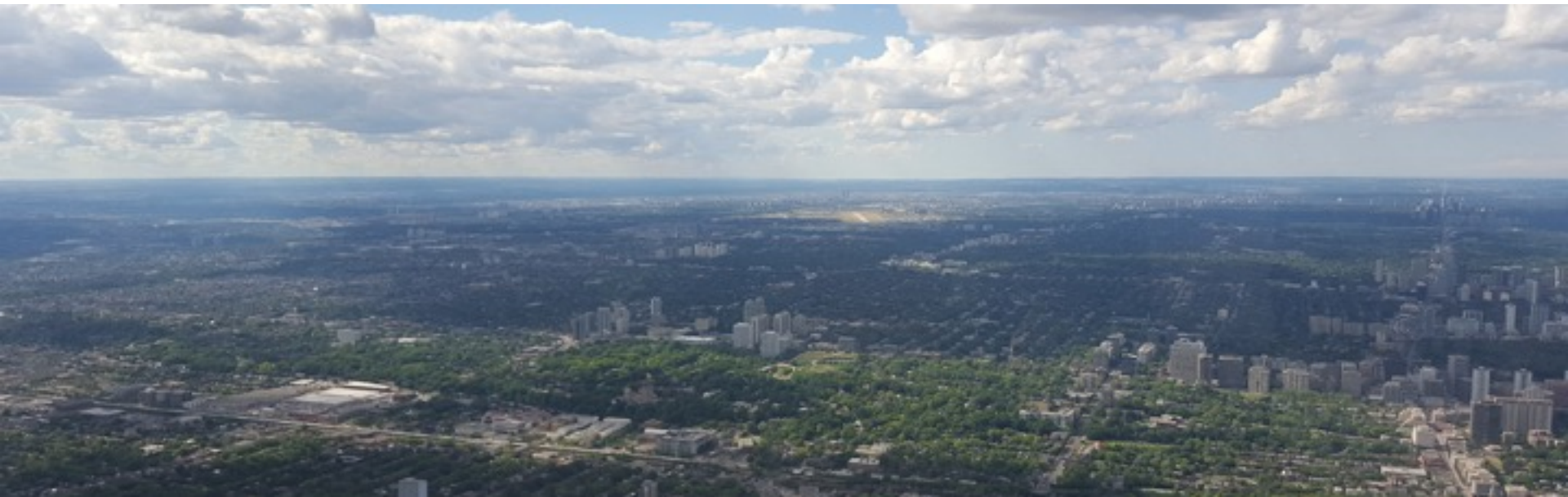
Presented at: Nature Works! Conference

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Jennifer Court, Executive Director

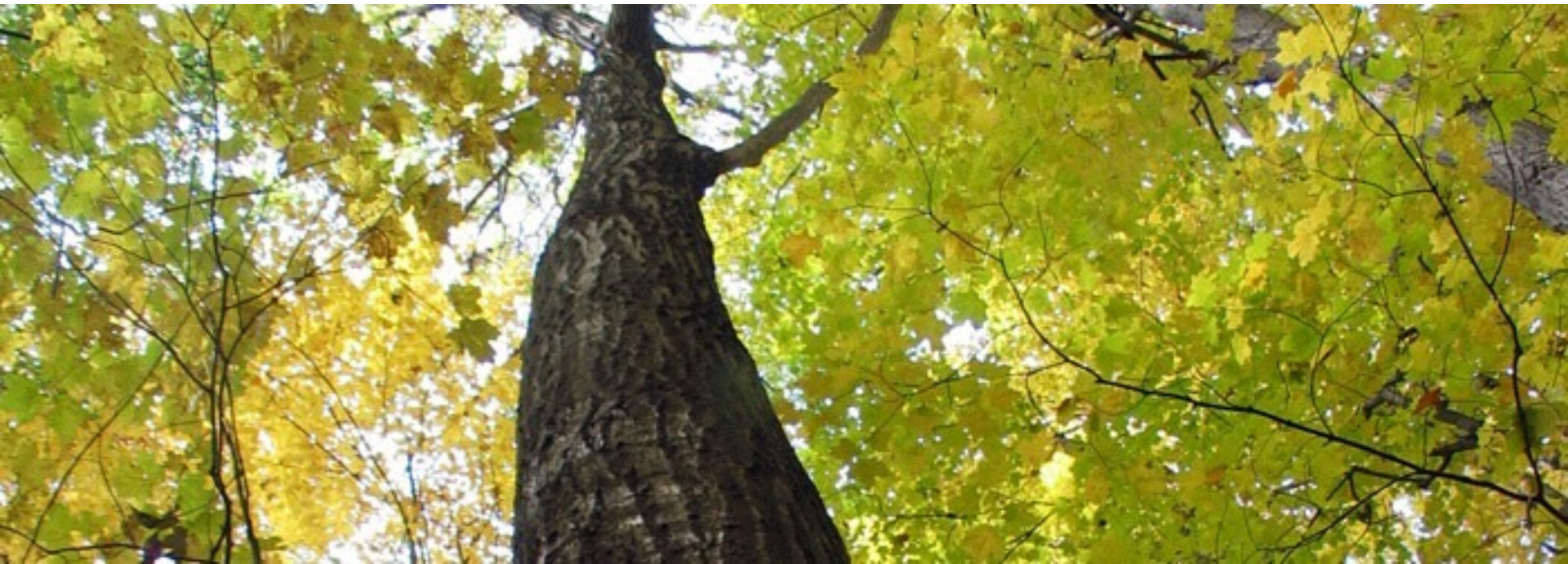
Outline

1. What is Green Infrastructure?
2. About the Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition (GIO)
3. Current Activities



What is Green Infrastructure?

Green infrastructure is defined as natural vegetative systems and green technologies that collectively provide society with a broad multitude of benefits



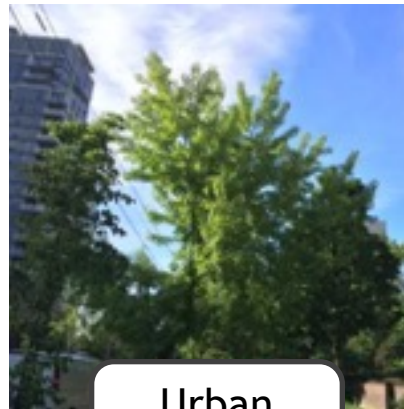
What is Green Infrastructure?

It encompasses:

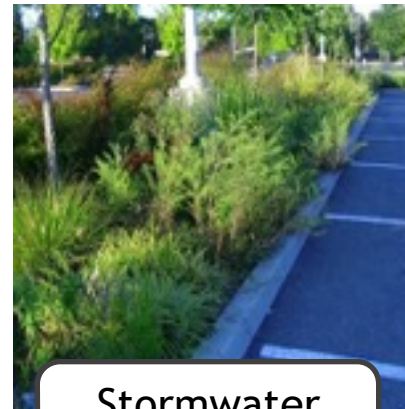


Urban Agriculture

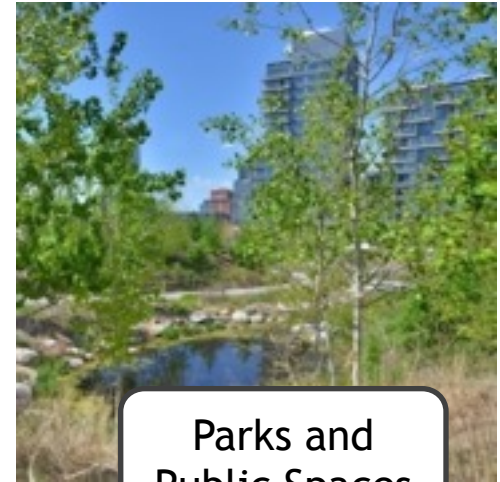
Green Roofs/
Walls



Urban
Forest



Stormwater
Systems



Parks and
Public Spaces

Natural
Heritage
Systems

Green Infrastructure Includes:



Green technologies
Eg. Permeable pavement

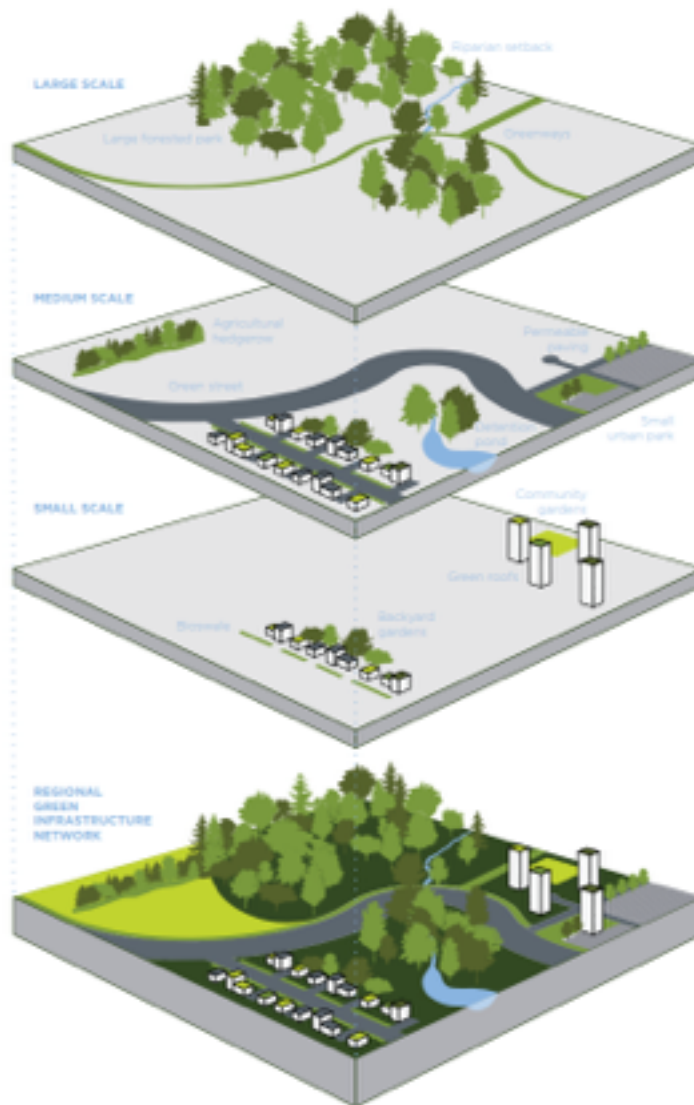


Soils

What is NOT Green Infrastructure?



Green Infrastructure is a Network



Green Infrastructure Language

We frame green infrastructure around these key infrastructure concepts:

- Assets
- Cost savings
- Secondary services/co-benefits



CLIMATE CHANGE



ECONOMICS



STORMWATER



PUBLIC HEALTH



ECOSYSTEM HEALTH



COMMUNITY

About GIO



The Green Infrastructure Ontario Coalition (GIO) is an alliance of organizations that share a common vision for a healthy, green Ontario where the economic, social, environmental and health benefits of green infrastructure are fully realized.

GIO Coalition Members



Approx. 35 general members:

- Businesses
- Industry and professional associations
- Municipal and Regional governments
- Conservation Authorities
- ENGOs

GIO Steering Committee



ONTARIO PARKS ASSOCIATION
Protecting Tomorrow Today



GIO Activities

- **Government Relations**
 - Direct advocacy
 - Policy submissions
- **Communications / Information sharing**
 - Presentations
 - Workshops
 - Reports
 - Newsletter



Legislation, Plans & Policies: Successes



Since 2014, green infrastructure has been included in:

- O. REG. 588/17: Asset Management Planning for Municipal Infrastructure (2018)
- Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act, 2017
- Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe & Greenbelt Plan (2017)
- Wetland Conservation Strategy (2017)
- Federal Infrastructure Clean Water and Waste Water Act (2017)
- Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (2016)
- Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015
- Ontario's Climate Change Strategy (2015)
- Provincial Policy Statement (2014)



Communications & Other Activities



- Published :
 - The Case for Green Infrastructure In Ontario (2012)
 - State of the Urban Forest in the GTA (2016)
 - A Green Infrastructure Guide for Small Cities, Towns, and Rural Communities (2017)
 - State of Large Parks in Ontario's Golden Horseshoe (2019)
- Hosted workshops and sponsored conferences:
 - Soak it Up: Green Stormwater Infrastructure Toolkit
 - Green Infrastructure Asset Management workshops
 - Grey to Green Conference
- Publish Bi-monthly Newsletters highlighting green infrastructure policy progress and initiatives in Ontario and around the world.
- Participated in federal infrastructure roundtables with Minister Sohi & invite-only workshop with Deputy Minister Kelly Gillis

State of Large Parks Report

STATE OF LARGE PARKS IN ONTARIO'S GOLDEN HORSESHOE



- **Key Findings:**
 - Large parks are falling through the cracks
 - Large park supply per capita will drop drastically with anticipated regional population growth
 - Gaps exist in planning, funding, establishing, and managing large parks
 - Need for policy and funding solutions to increase carrying capacity of existing large parks and to create new large parks

Current Activities



Economic Impact Assessment of the Green Infrastructure Sector in Ontario

- First ever comprehensive assessment of the sector
- Defining the sector
- Gross output, GDP and jobs
 - Current (as of 2018)
 - 2030 Business as usual
 - 2030 Stretch
- To be released in early April—stay tuned!

Current Activities



Advancing Municipal Action on Implementing Green Infrastructure

- Financial support from the Greenbelt Foundation, in partnership with Ontario Parks Association
- Understanding challenges and barriers
- Compiling tools and resources
- Providing training and ongoing support
- Developing online hub for municipal resources

Upcoming workshop: March 20 at CVC

email programs@greeninfrastructureontario.org for more info or to register!

Current Activities

National Working Group

- Nature-Based Climate Solutions Summit
 - Concurrent sessions:
 - Natural Infrastructure & Urban Landscapes
- Federal Roadmap for Mainstreaming Natural Infrastructure



Current Activities



Membership Relaunch!

- GIO has relaunched our general membership
- New categories for participation
- New benefits!
- Becoming a member is the best way to support GIO in continuing to work to promote green infrastructure
- Visit: greeninfrastructureontario.org/join/

www.greeninfrastructureontario.org

Join GIO – Visit the website
Follow us on twitter @GreenInfraOn
Sign up for the GIO newsletter
jcourt@greeninfrastructureontario.org



Let's Make Green Infrastructure the
NEW NORMAL!